THE ADVANCED BALISONG MANUAL

by Jeff Imada

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with George Foon

WARNING: The author and publisher are not responsible in any manner whatsoever for any injury which may occur by reading and/or following the instructions herein. Also, some states and governmental agencies have imposed legal limitations on the possession of certain weapons, so consult your local laws and regulations for any applicable restrictions.

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this book first and foremost to my parents, Tad and Toshi Imada, who brought me into this world, taught me about living, and who've *always* given me their love and support.

Dan Inosanto who made the martial arts a part of my life by giving me the keys and concepts for physical, mental and spiritual growth.

My Jeet Kune Do and Kali/Escrima brothers and sisters on our mutual and separate journeys through life. May we grow stronger together.

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION 3
JEFF IMADA 3
THE IMADA KEIBO 7
THE BALISONG AND THE LAW 12
POCKET KNIFE OPENINGS 15
MANIPULATING THE BALISONG 19
GRIP CHANGES 58
SELF-DEFENSE WITH THE BALISONG 72
RESTRAINING HOLDS 89
CATALOG 90
REFURBISHING THE BALISONG 120
BELT SHEATHS 124

INTRODUCTION

Since our first volume, *The Balisong Manual,* appeared in 1984, the balisong knife has become the most popular weapon to come along since Bruce Lee popularized the nunchaku in 1971.

Like the nunchaku, popularity did breed contempt. Though not illegal to own, the butterfly knife was banned from importation on July 3, 1986, by United States Customs.

Historically, the era of the balisong began on September 28, 1982, when the butterfly knife was allowed to enter the country and officially ended on July 3, 1986. You, the reader and proud balisong owner, are truly an important part of martial arts history. As the four-year supply of balisongs are depleted, the knives' value must increase according to the economic law of "supply and demand." Our advice to you is to put several of the best examples away for your grandchildren. Years from now, as you lean back in your wheelchair, you can show your descendants that you were truly a part of history with your flashy, circa '86 model balisong.

Thanks for sharing this time and place in history with us.

—The Publishers

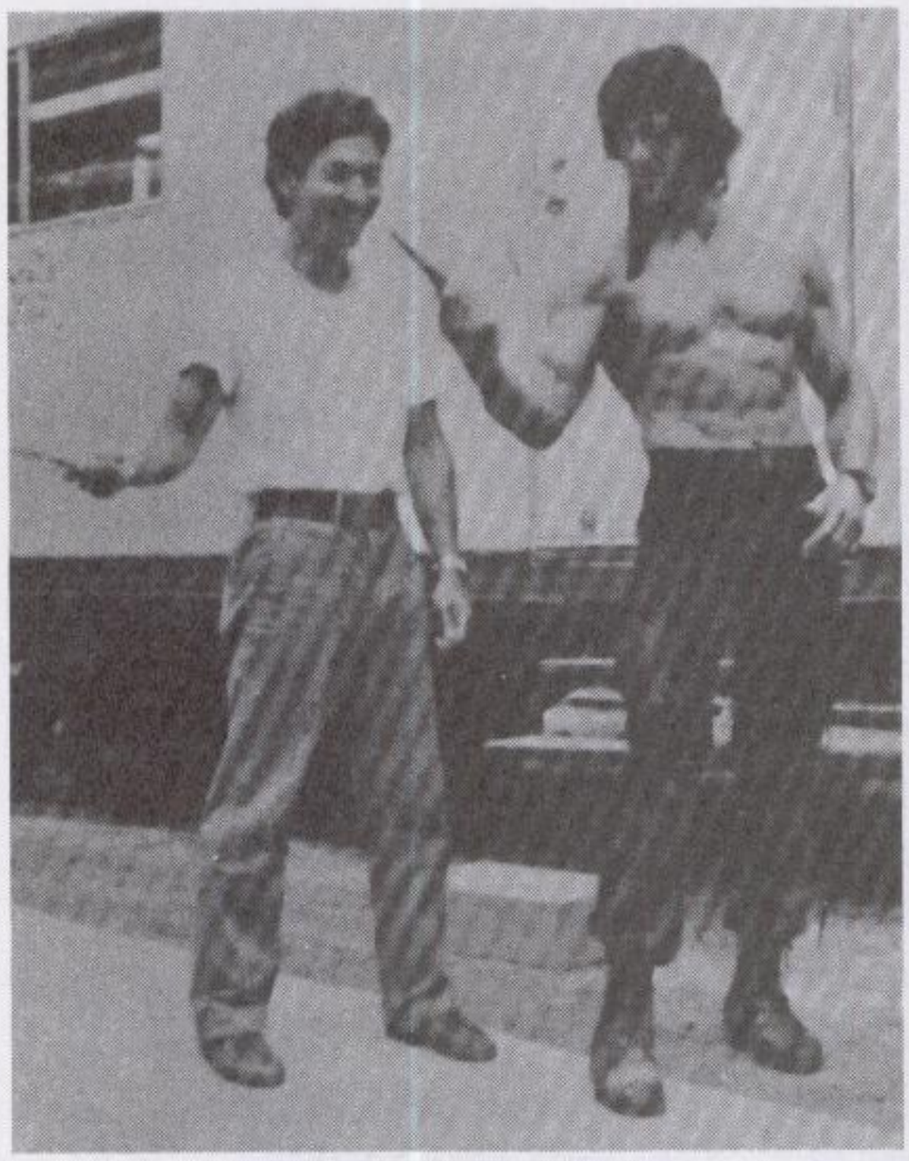
JEFF IMADA

Since Jeff Imada's *Balisong Manual* first appeared in 1984, he has become the leading exponent in popularizing the balisong knife. Apart from personally introducing the knife to the likes of Sylvester Stallone and Tom Selleck, he has included balisongs in the following feature films and television shows in which he either appeared or acted as stunt coordinator or technical adviser: "Nice Dreams," "Streets of Fire," "Big Trouble in Little China," "Skirmish," "Lethal Weapons," "Matt Houston," "Hart to Hart," "T.J. Hooker," "General Hospital," "Strike Force," "Magnum P.I.," and "The A-Team."

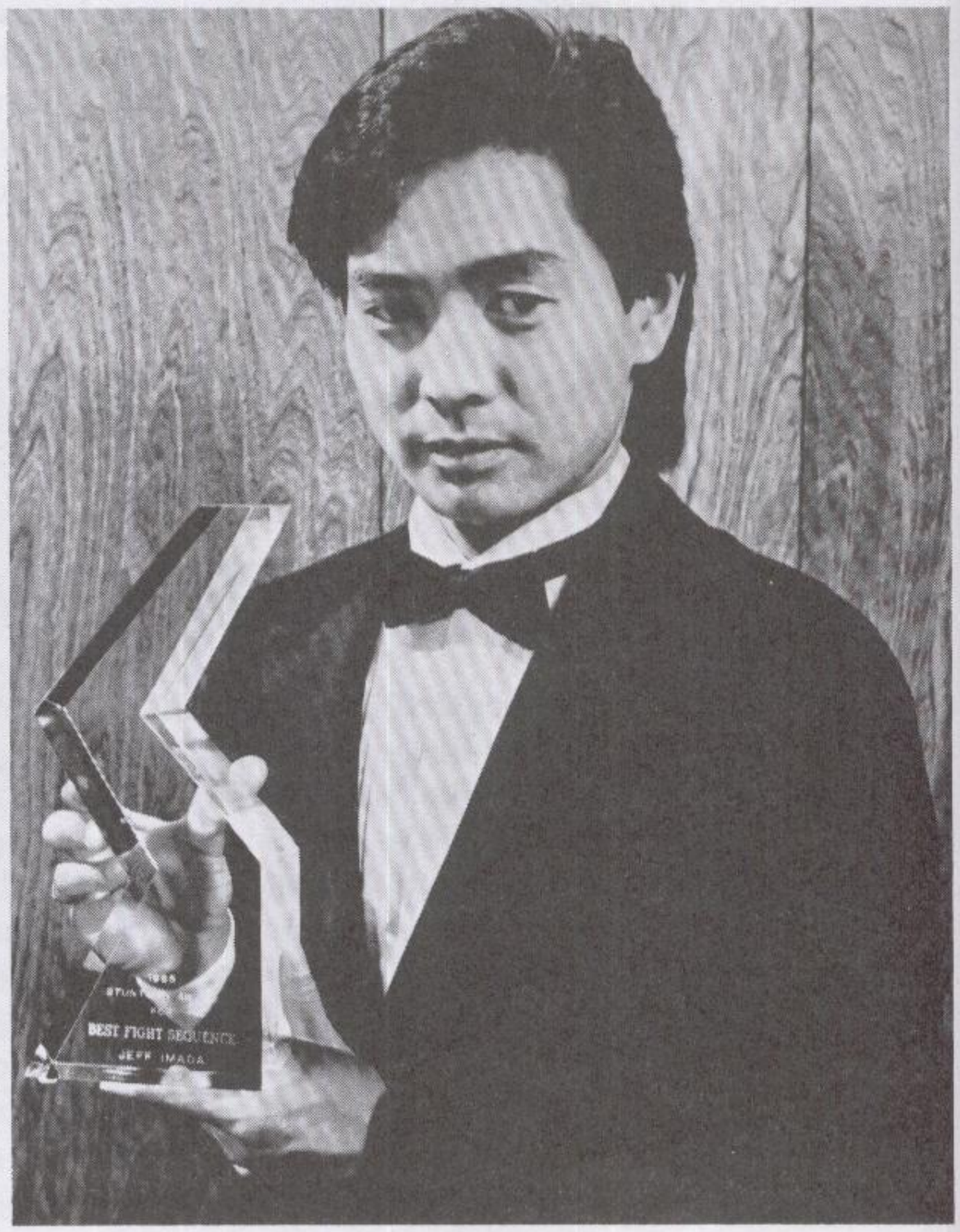
We now feel that maybe Jeff did his job too well, based on the latest United States Customs decisions. Giving the knife a lot of visibility might have also contributed to its downfall, since balisongs appear overly lethal and menacing. It also didn't help that the "bad guys" almost always wielded the knives.

Apart from the balisong films, you might have seen Jeff's work in: "Police Academy III," "Gung-Ho," "Rambo," "Pee Wee's Big Adventure," "M.I.A.," "Uncommon Valor," "Dreamscape," "Breathless," "Going Berserk," "Blue Thunder," "Jumpin Jack Flash," or "The Golden Child." His television work includes: "Remington Steele," "MacGyver," "Hardcastle and McCormick," "Hunter," "Cagney and Lacey," "Hill Street Blues," "Dynasty," "The Master," "Airwolf," "Stingray," "Taxi," "Gavilan" and "The Fall Guy," among others.

When not on the set, Jeff still updates his training with Dan Inosanto and Guru Ted Lucay Lucay. Jeff attributes much of his success to his training with Inosanto. "Dan's principles and concepts of the martial arts and, more importantly, body mechanics, opened the door to stunt work for me," says Jeff.

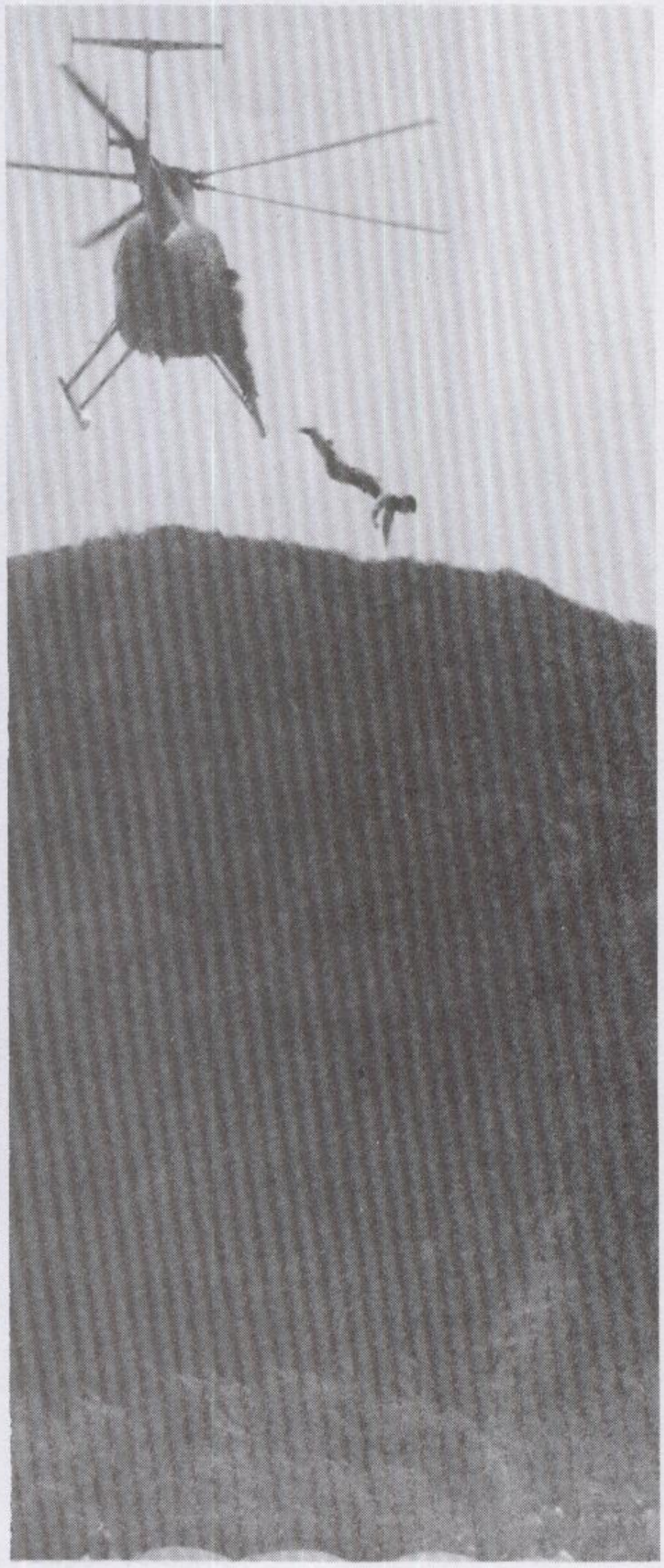


Sylvester Stallone (on the right) with his new Pacific Cutlery black weehawk skeleton.



In 1985, at the First Annual Stuntman's Awards, Jeff received an award for the "Best Fight Sequence" in the "Knight Rider" television series. It was presented by pseudo-stuntman Lee Majors, of the "Fall Guy" series.

Jeff played the leader of the Lords of Death gang in John Carpenter's "Big Trouble in Little China," starring Kurt Russell. This balisong and keibo sequence required about eight takes and about two hours to film. It lasted a mere ten to fifteen seconds in the completed film.



Jeff was hired as a stunt-double for actor Soon Teck Oh in a "Matt Houston" episode. The stunt required a midair fight, leading to an eighty-foot-high fall from a moving helicopter onto a fifteen- by thirty-foot air bag. From that height, the air bag looked like a small sponge about the size of a playing card. Four cameras were used to make sure the action was caught, and to give the editor the best shot angle. In high falls, the stuntman is paid by the foot and according to the degree of danger and difficulty.

THE IMADA KEIBO

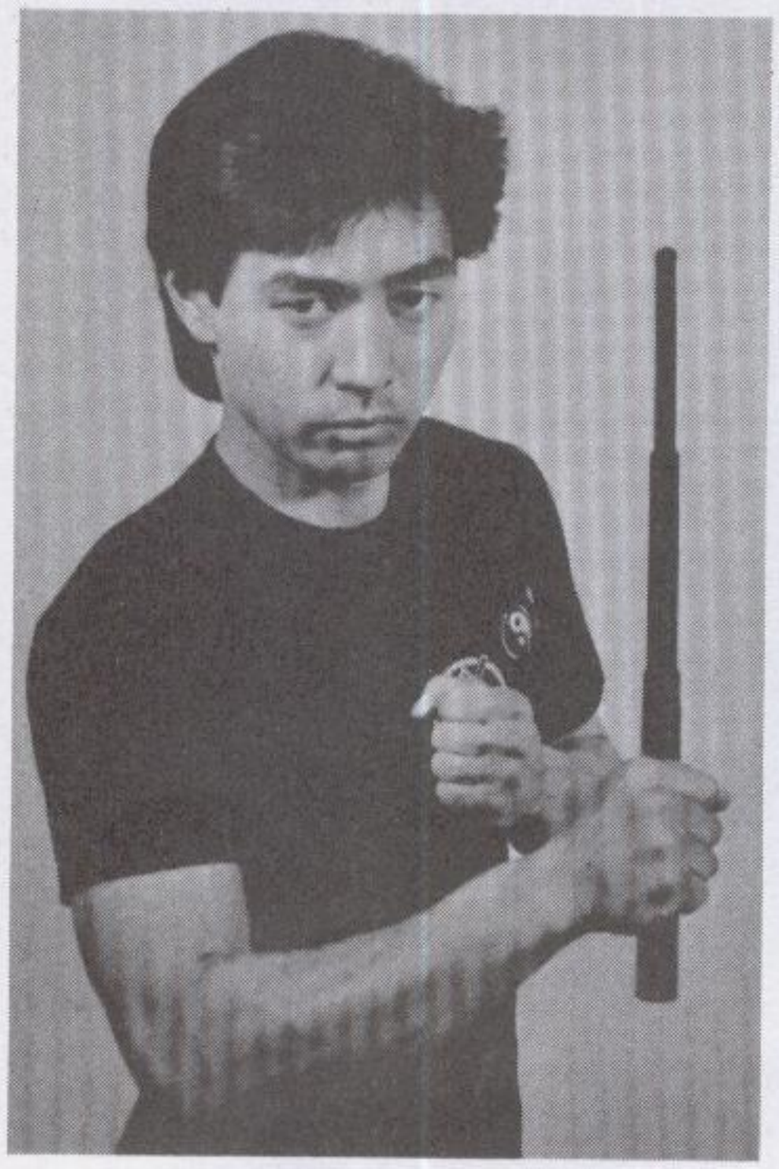
In 1984, Jeff Imada wanted to create the finest telescopic staff possible. Thus, the Imada Keibo was born. It was unique in both design and construction. Each section was constructed of 4130 grade steel alloy (the strongest steel tubing available, with a normalized tensile strength of 90,000 PSI). It was further heat-treated to increase this strength to 125,000-140,000 PSI.

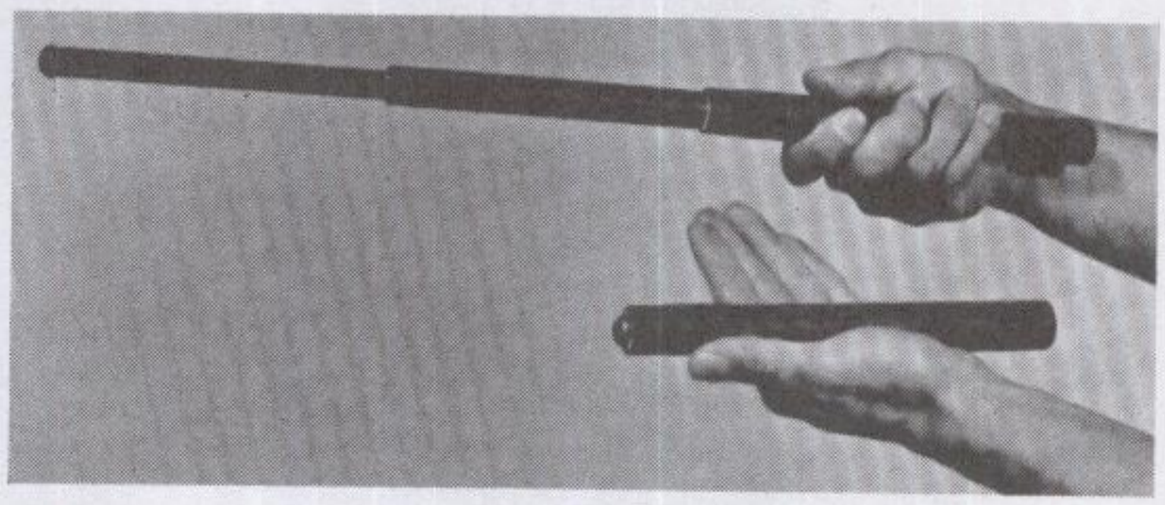
A common problem with other telescopic staffs on the market was the tendency for the center section to bend or open, thereby allowing the other sections to slip out. For this reason, the center section of the Imada Keibo was noticeably thicker (.083" wall thickness) than either the first or third sections.

The three-band knurled handle was used for the most effective and comfortable grip under all weather conditions. Because of the precision tolerances used in the construction, both caps were treaded for easy disassembly for cleaning. Finally, the entire unit was coated with an 'M' grade phosphorous finish which resisted scuff, scratches and nicks. It also maintained a low-profile, non-reflective black appearance.

Jeff Imada would diligently test each keibo with a different opening technique and strike a telephone pole as hard as he could before shipment.

The cost of production escalated to a point where the $39.95 sale price was no longer feasible. The Imada Keibo was discontinued in 1986. Negotiations are now in progress to once again produce the Imada Keibo. March 1987 is the targeted release date.





IMADA KEIBO

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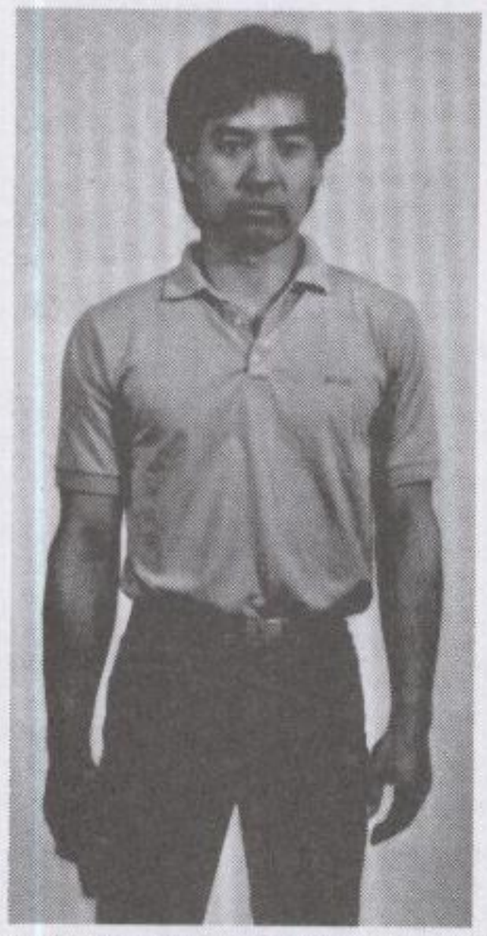

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Jeff demonstrates an inside slap opening with the Imada Keibo.

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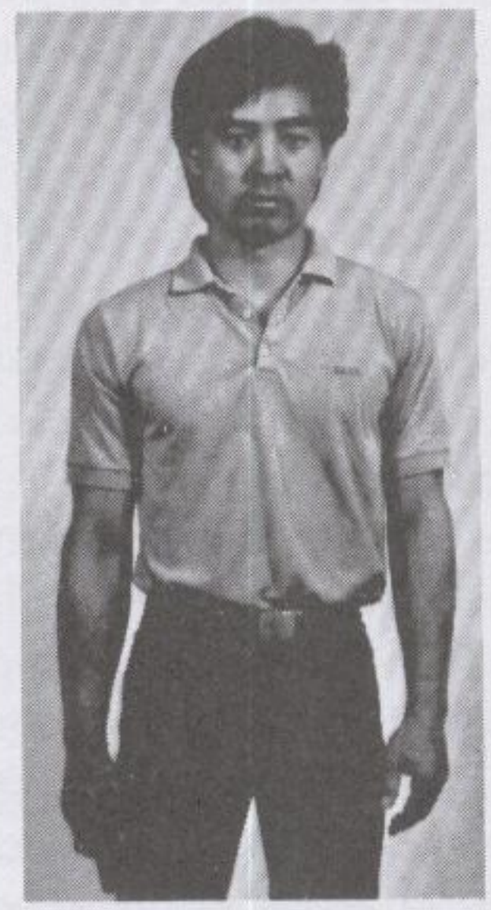

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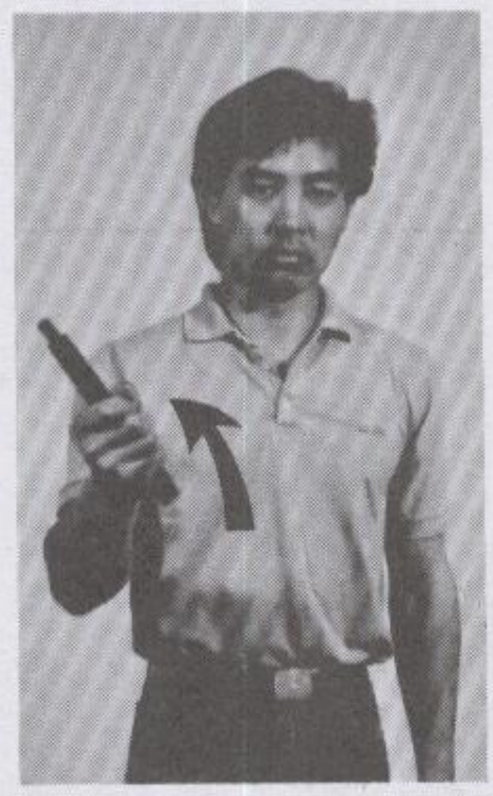

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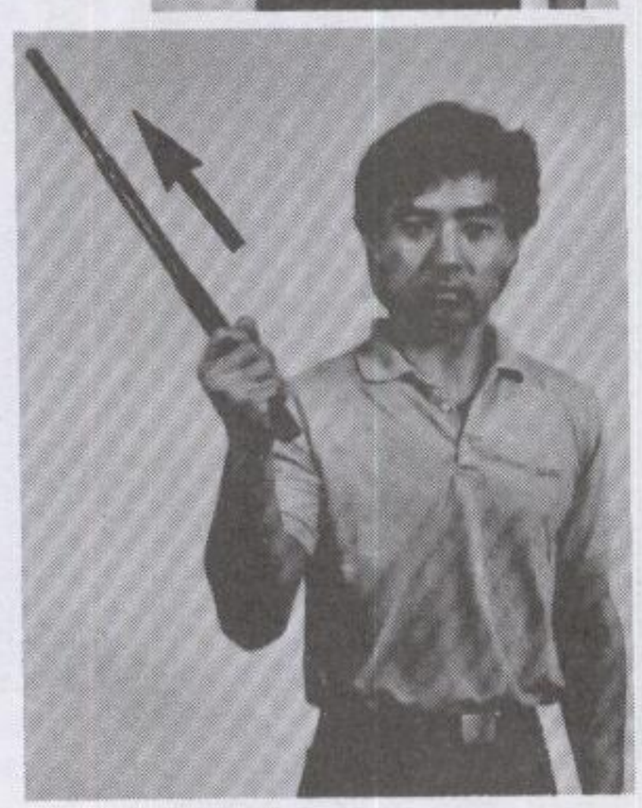

Jeff demonstrates an outside flick opening.

IMADA KEIBO DEFENSE

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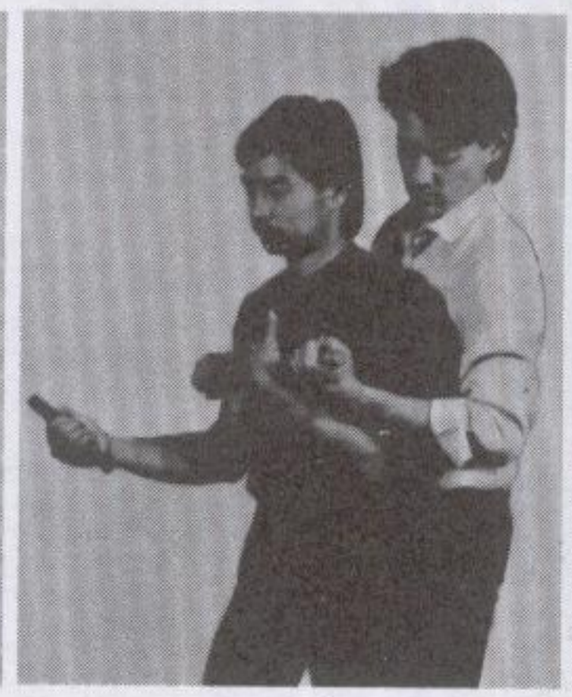

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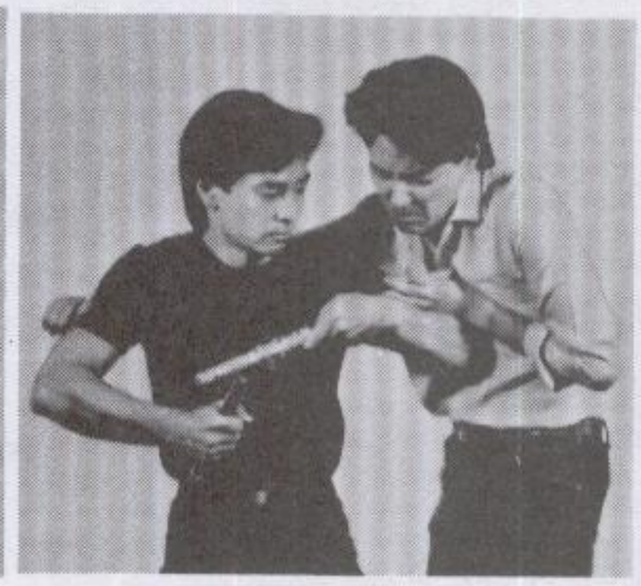

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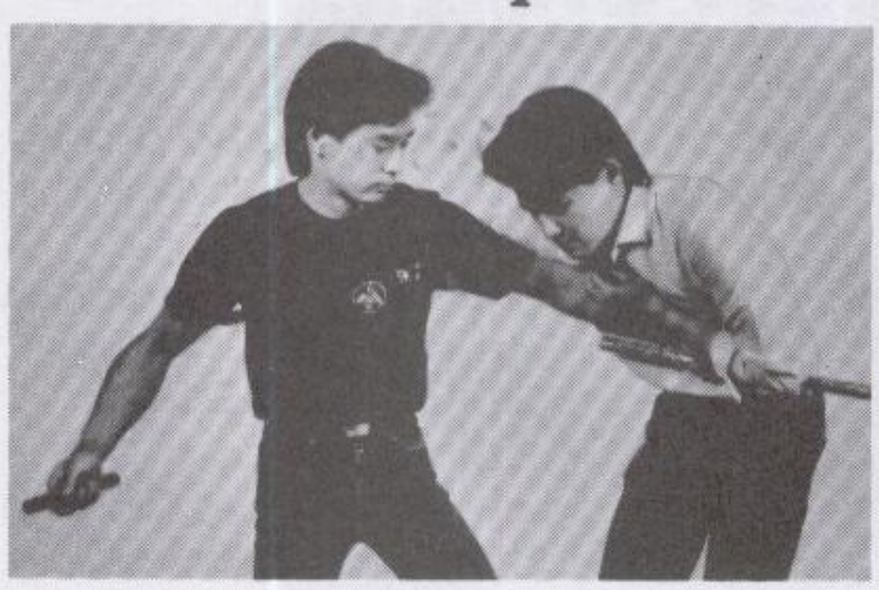

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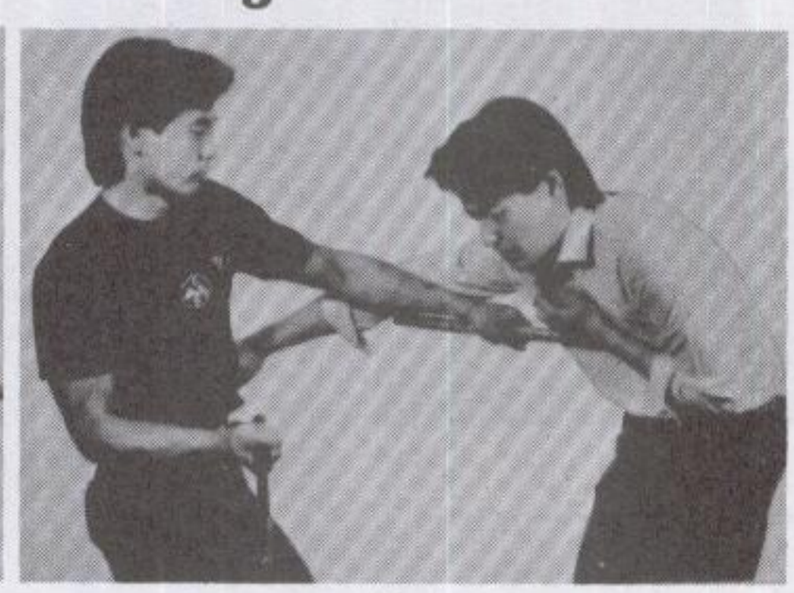

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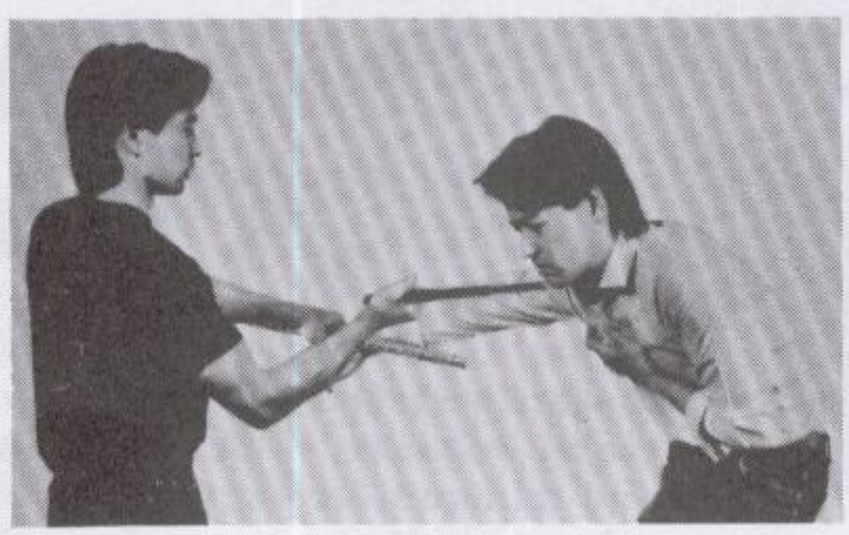

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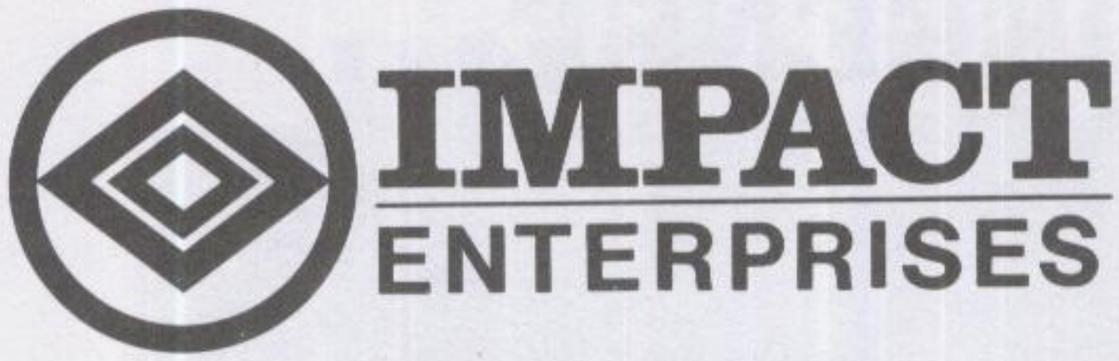
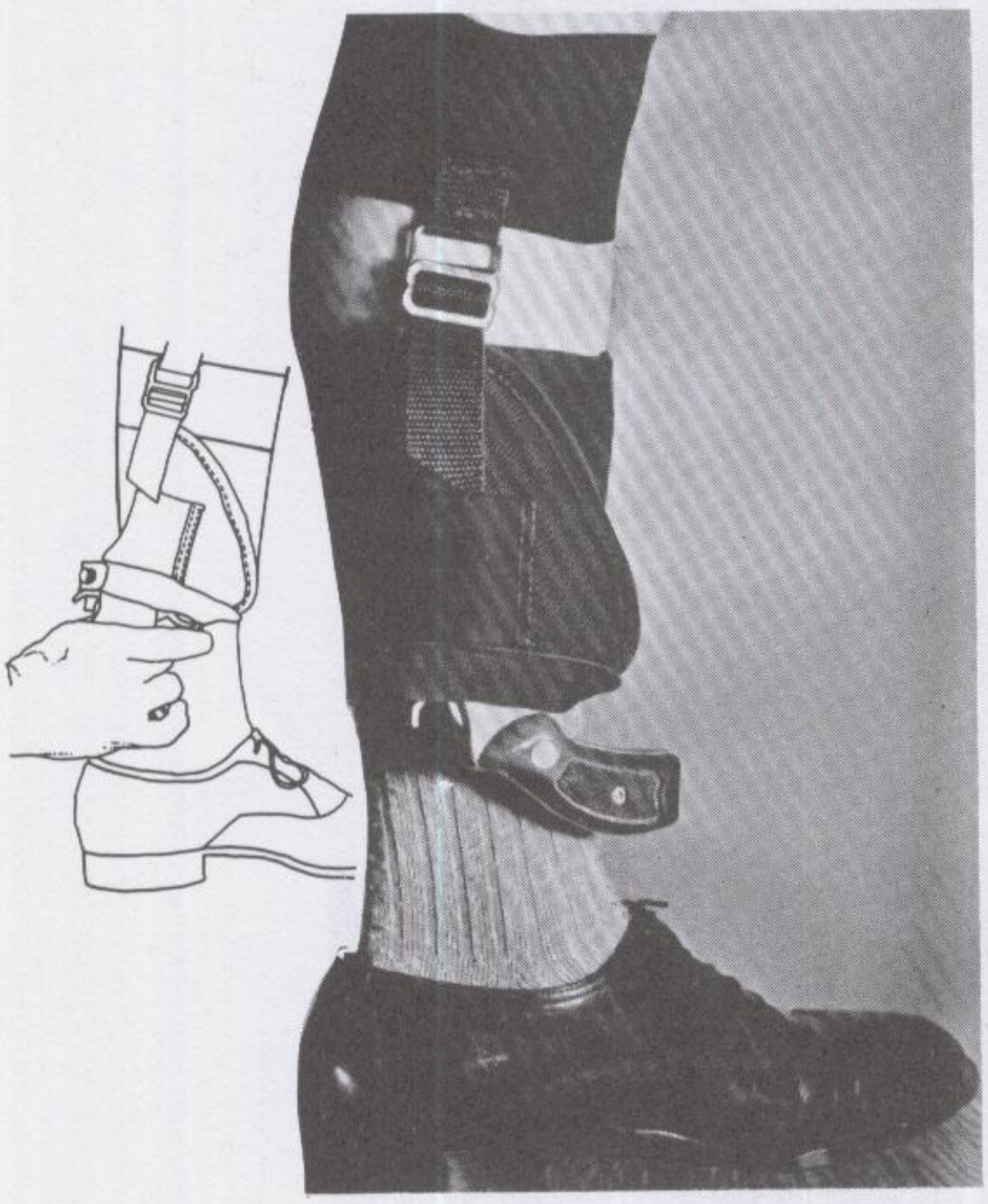
Your attacker grabs you from behind with a stick (1). Use your left hand to check his stick, to prevent further movement, and hit his hand with the closed keibo (2 & 3). Angle to your left and hit with your left elbow. Grab his stick and move your right arm out to force a release (4, 5 & 6). Check your opponent with your left arm and stick, allowing time to open your keibo and follow up with a hit to his head (7, 8 & 9).





IMPACT ENTERPRISES

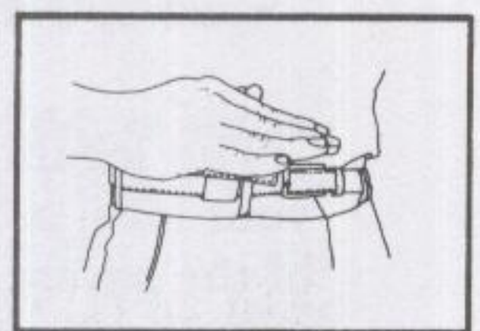
Impact Enterprises was another brainstorm from the fertile mind of Jeff Imada that materialized in 1984 for the police and gun market. The line was called the Hidden Partner™ series and featured an ankle holster, ammo dump pouch and badge carrier.

Ankle holsters at that time were mounted upright on your leg. To extract your gun from that position, you had to first pull up your pant leg all the way up to your knee, then pull your gun out. Jeff's JKD thinking made it much more efficient. It was marketed as the DOWNWARD DRAW ANKLE HOLSTER featuring: The fastest ankle draw available, undetectable, dual locks for retention and safety, water-resistant Cordura® nylon construction, fully enclosed foam padding for comfort and cleanliness, and self-molding fit for all small frame 2" .38 revolvers.

IMADA STICK BAGS

These stick bags were designed for Dan Inosanto's international demonstration team. Because of the public attention and demand for them, Jeff decided to offer a limited edition for sale to discriminating enthusiasts. The large bag is made of durable, water-repellent Dupont® Cordura™ fabric, and the smaller bag is constructed of rugged, waterproof, black nylon pack cloth.

THE FAST BADGE



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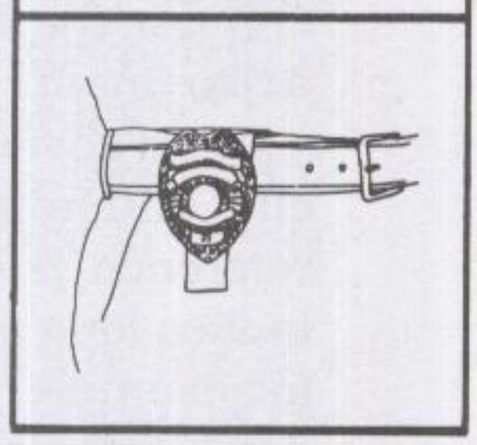
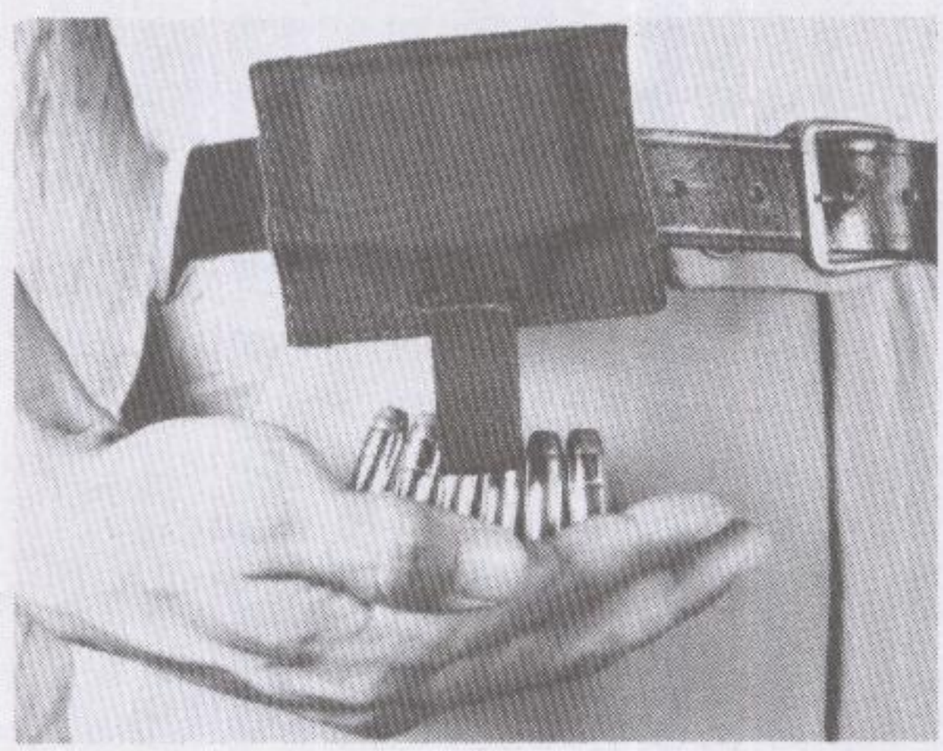
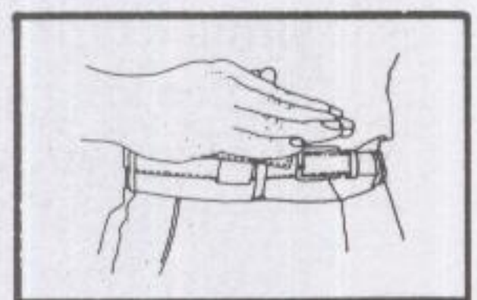


2.

The "Fast Badge" was created for the undercover police officer. It presented the ideal way for the undercover officer to quickly identify himself, even while in foot pursuit. A hidden case protected the badge and added comfort for long stakeouts. A pull of the tab instantly reveals the badge in less than one second.

HIDEWAY DUMP POUCH





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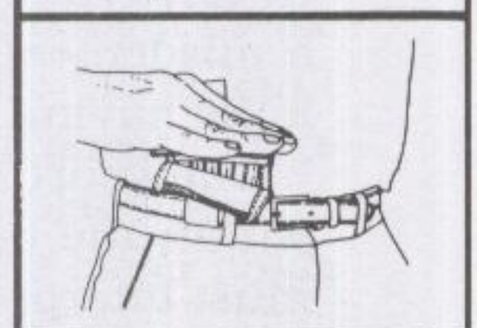

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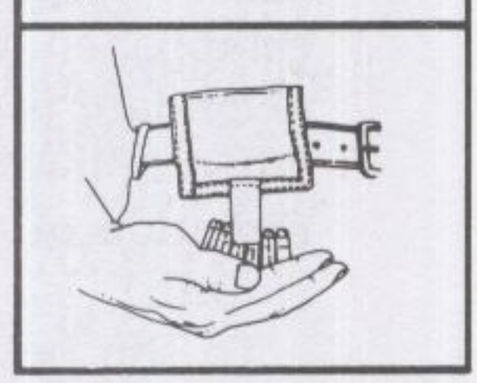


3.

The "Hideaway Dump Pouch" works along the same principle. It's concealable and can also be used as an exterior range pouch. It releases 6 rounds in less than one second and works with or without a speed strip.

THE BALISONG AND THE LAW

The legality of possessing a butterfly knife depends upon your local ordinances and law enforcement agencies. Because of the severe penalties for carrying a weapon, we can't stress enough the importance of consulting with your local police department.

Laws governing knives vary from state to state, from city to city, and from time to time. Blade length and style are the first reference points in determining legality. Blades over three inches long are illegal in Rhode Island and Washington, D.C., for example, while three and a half inch blades are the standard for Colorado, Nebraska and Oregon. Connecticut, Kansas, Montana and Texas allow up to a four-inch blade. Five- and six-inch blades are tolerated in some states. Law enforcement officials can also tell you how the blade is measured. In some areas, only the edged portion of the blade is measured, while in others blade length is considered everything beyond the handle.

Most law enforcement agencies in California classify the butterfly knife as a switchblade, according to Penal Code section 653k. According to this statute, a switchblade is ". . . a knife having the appearance of a pocket knife, and shall include a spring blade knife, snap knife, gravity knife or other similar type knife, the blade or blades of which are two or more inches long and which can be released automatically by a flick of a button, pressure on the handle, flip of the wrist or other mechanical device, or is released by the weight of the blade or by any type of mechanism whatsoever." Section 653k makes it a misdemeanor to sell, transfer or offer to sell a switchblade knife having a blade more than two inches in length.

The court must determine whether the butterfly knife falls within the definition of section 653k. In doing so, the court must interpret the language used to define a switchblade. It is established that when interpreting a criminal statute: ". . . The defendant is entitled to the benefit of every reasonable doubt, whether it arises out of a question of fact, or as to the true interpretation of words or the construction of language used in a statute."

To the best of our knowledge, no court in California has declared the butterfly knife to be a switchblade under state law.

continued

THE BALISONG AND THE LAW *continued*

The Switchblade Knife Act, 15 U.S.C. 1241-1244, is similar in language and purpose to the California Penal Code section 653k. Section 1241 defines a switchblade knife as: ". . . any knife having a blade which opens automatically (1) by hand pressure applied to a button or other device in the handle of the knife, or (2) by operation of inertia, gravity or both."

It's clear that the language of section 1241 is intended to prohibit the same type of knife as is the language in section 653k.

The courts recognize that the Switchblade Knife Act is a criminal statute of general application, not a provision of the customs laws. The courts find that the congressional purpose of the act was to aid the enforcement of the state laws against switchblades by barring them from interstate commerce. The Senate Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce stated that: "There is no legitimate use for the switchblade to which a conventional sheath or jackknife is not better suited."

S. Rep. No. 1980, supra, and the court in *Precise Imports,* 378 F.2d at 1017, required that a finding be made that the primary purpose of a knife, for use as a weapon, falls under this statute. Thus, the court stated at 1017, ". . . gives effect to the congressional intent to bar from interstate commerce knives which are well adapted only to use as weapons. . . ."

The butterfly knife clearly has uses other than as a weapon. The knife contains a cutting edge intended for use by sportsmen, unlike the knives in *Precise Imports,* 378 F.2d at 1016, which "were designed for use as daggers because their blades were sharp only at the point." The butterfly knife is safer to use in cutting than a traditional jackknife, since the blade can't close unexpectedly. It's also safer to carry than a sheath knife with a fixed blade, because the butterfly knife's blade is completely covered by the handle when closed, and a clasp holds both handles shut when the blade is not in use.

A United States district court found that butterfly knives are not switchblades within the definition of the Switchblade Knife Act, 15 U.S.C. section 1241. In *United States vs. 1,044 Balisong Knives,* Civil Number 70-11- (D.C. O.R.) 1970, the court found that although a person skilled in the use of the knife could open it with one hand, the blades did not open automatically by the operation of inertia, gravity or both. Thus, the court concluded as a matter of law that the butterfly knives were not "switchblades" under the definition of 15 U.S.C. section 1241.

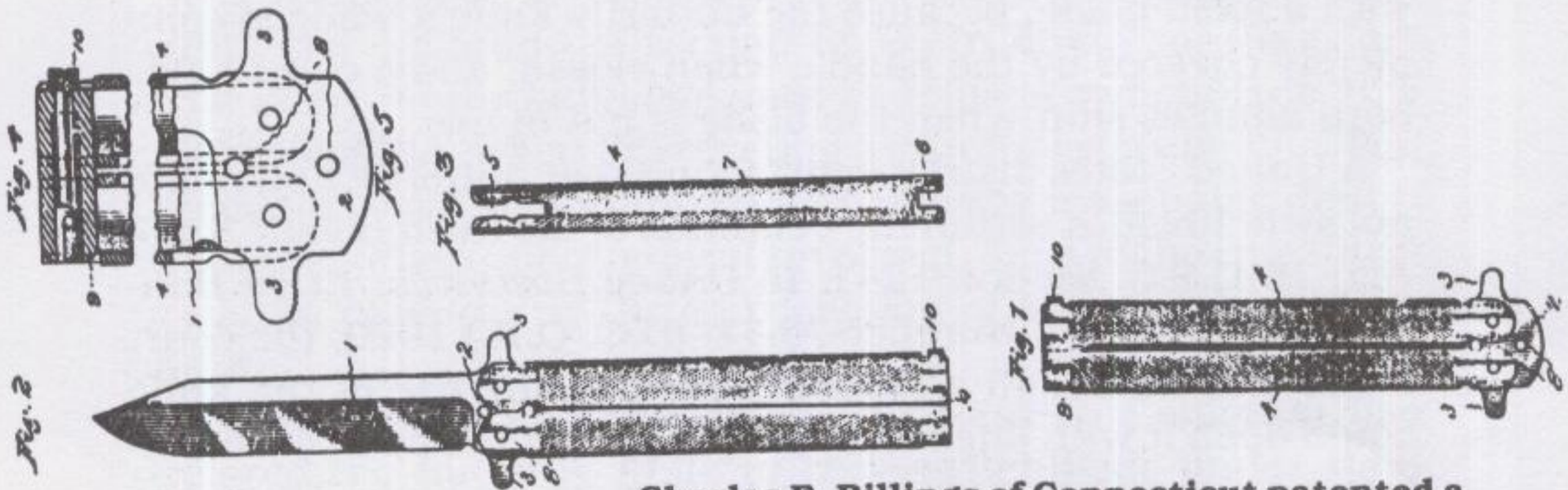
continued

THE BALISONG AND THE LAW *continued*

Regardless of court findings, U.S. Customs officials have their own ideas regarding the butterfly knife. Under T.D. 71-133 of July 14, 1971, all balisong-design knives have been refused entry into the United States. On September 28, 1982, T.D. 71-133 was rescinded. "Balisong" and "Balisong" design knives became admissible, subject to all other customs requirements for importation, i.e., country of origin marking.

On July 3, 1986, U.S. Customs officials once again banned the importation of butterfly knives, stating: "We have examined samples of the so-called 'butterfly' knives from all districts requesting advice and find that each knife has a blade which opens automatically by operation of inertia, gravity or both. Accordingly, they meet the definition of a switchblade knife. Therefore, they may be seized pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 545, as importations contrary to law."

The possession of almost any knife is legal as long as it is kept in your home or in the trunk of your car, out of harm's way. Problems begin when you carry the knife on your person, although in most cases, it's permissible to carry a "legal" knife openly in a visible sheath. Always use good common sense, and check first with local authorities. Put yourself in the policeman's shoes. What made you notice someone? Is it appropriate to carry such a weapon? What conclusion would you come to upon finding a weapon?



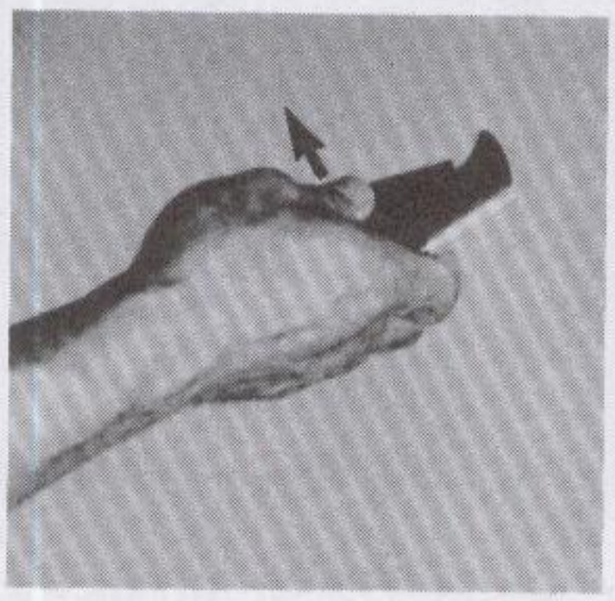
Charles E. Billings of Connecticut patented a butterfly-type knife in 1908. Our research traces its origin 1,100 years earlier in the Philippines.

ONE HAND OPENING TECHNIQUES

U.S. Customs is banning the butterfly knife because it can be opened with one hand, yet it allows millions of pocket knives to be imported, that also can be opened with one hand!?!

The Pocket Knife Thumb Wipe

1



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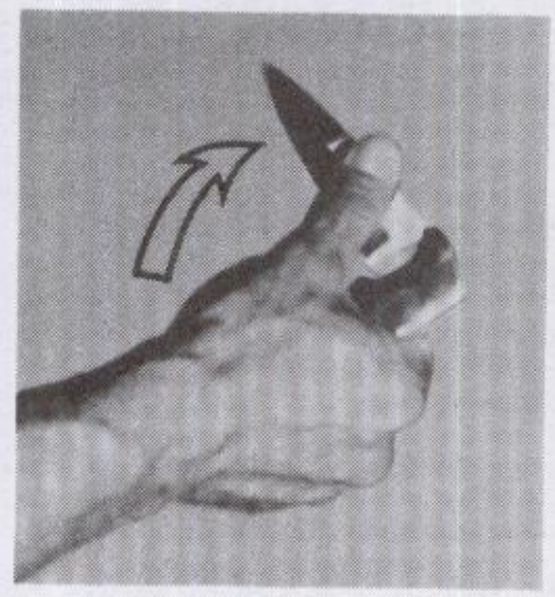

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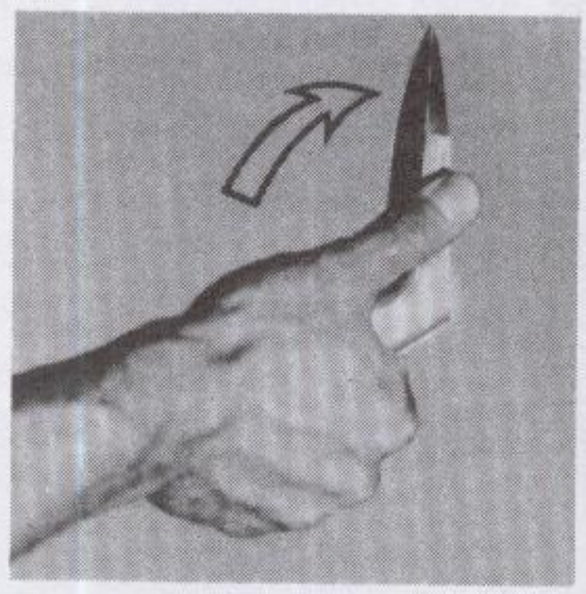

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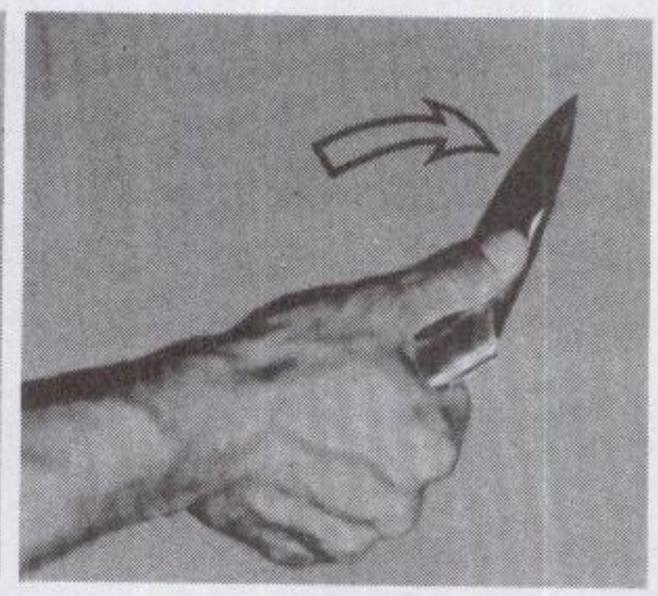

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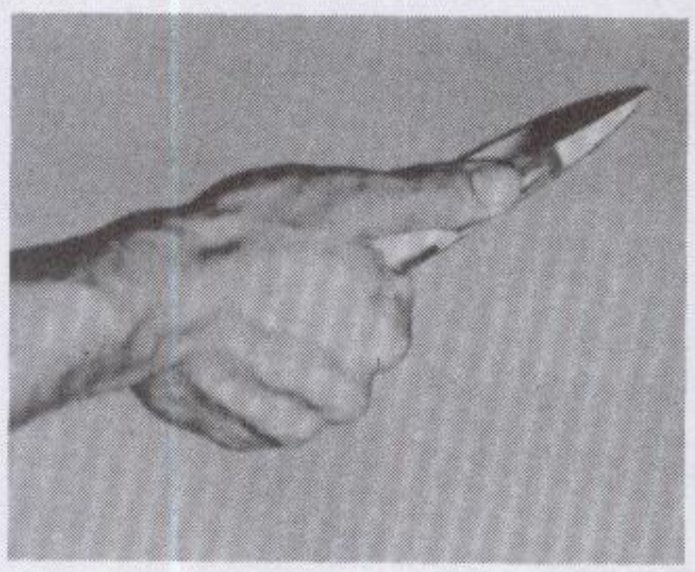

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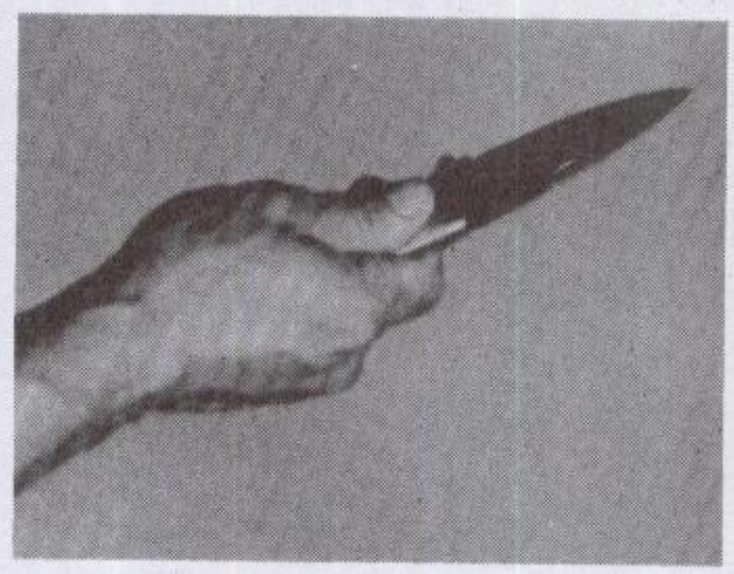
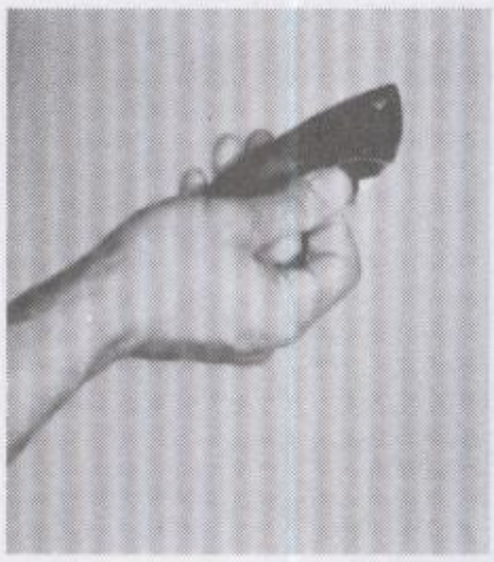


Tape the sharp edges of your blade now! Grip the knife with the butt toward your wrist and the blade away from your palm. Use your thumb and middle finger to push the blade away from the handle (1). Once the blade is away from the handle, use your thumb to continue the motion until it is fully opened and locked (2, 3, 4 & 5). Remember to push the thumb on the side of the blade and not on the cutting edge. Your thumb must be firm on the blade so it doesn't slide around. Pull the thumb back. You are now in the foil grip (6).

ONE HAND OPENING TECHNIQUES

The Pocket Knife Handle Flick



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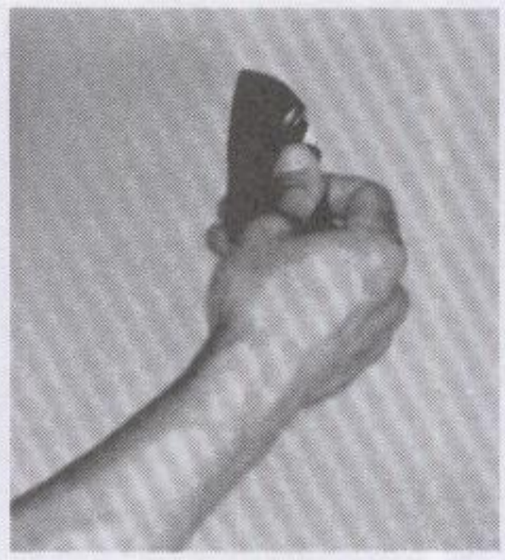

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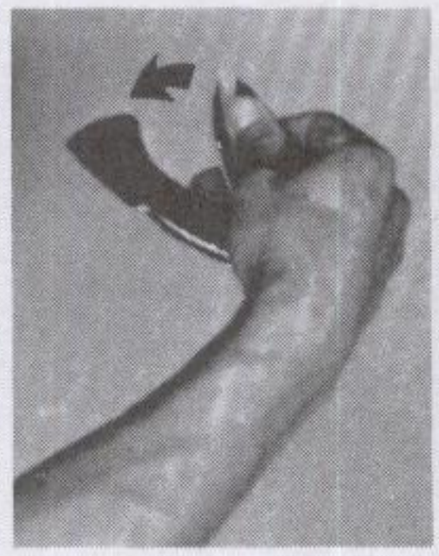

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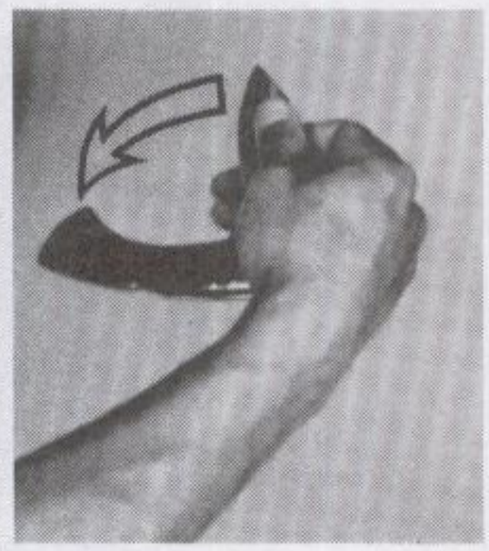

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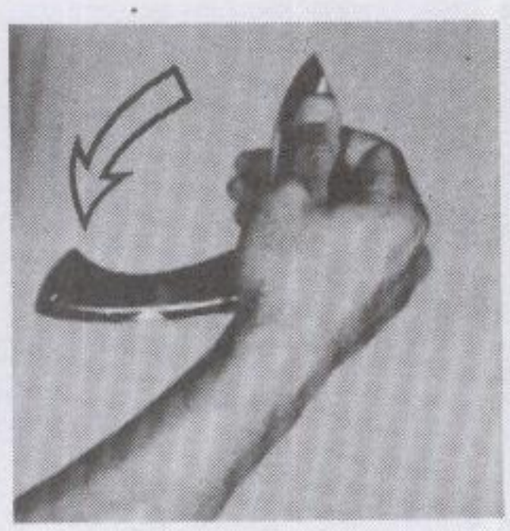

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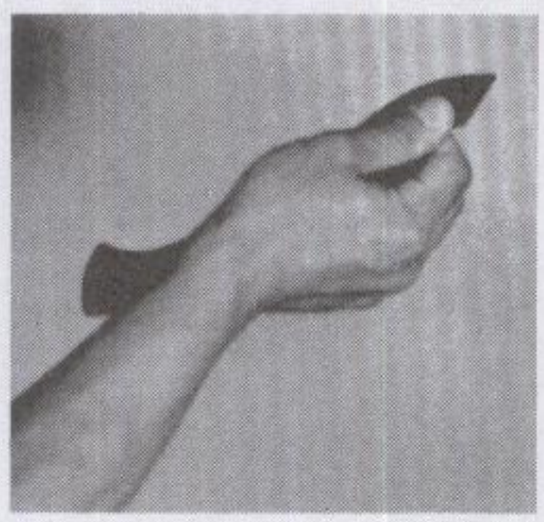

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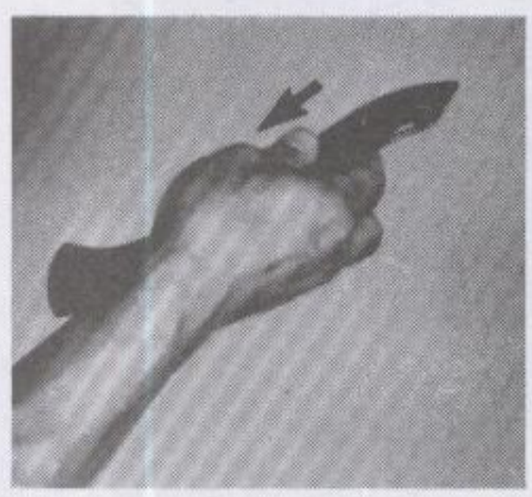

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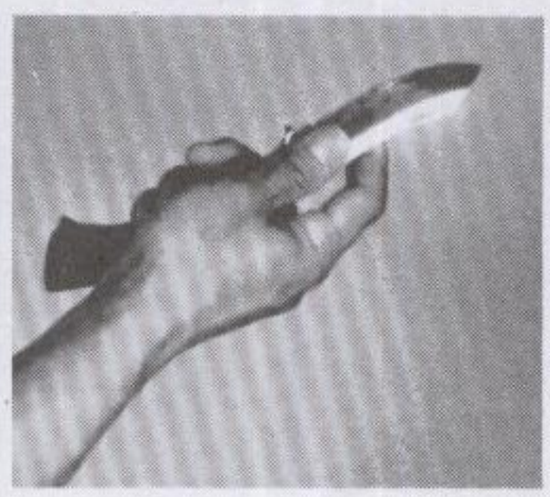

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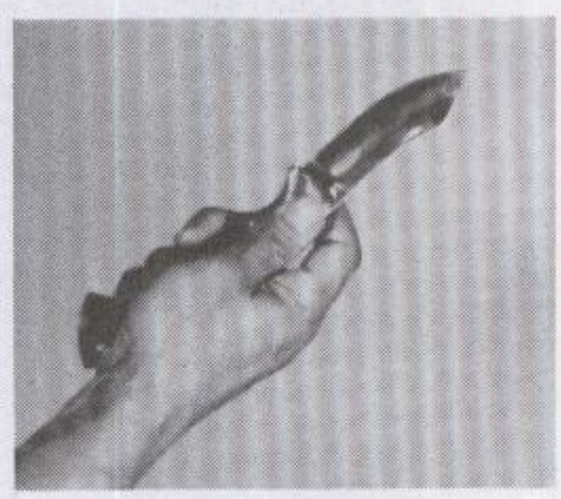


9

This move may open a folding knife as fast as a balisong, even though it's not as flashy. Tape the sharp edge of your blade now! Hold the knife with the butt pointing away from you and the blade between your first finger and thumb (1). Flick your hand toward your body and then away from you. The momentum will cause the handle to flick open and lock (2, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7). Keep practicing. You'll get it. Back your hand down the blade until you are in the foil grip (7, 8 & 9).

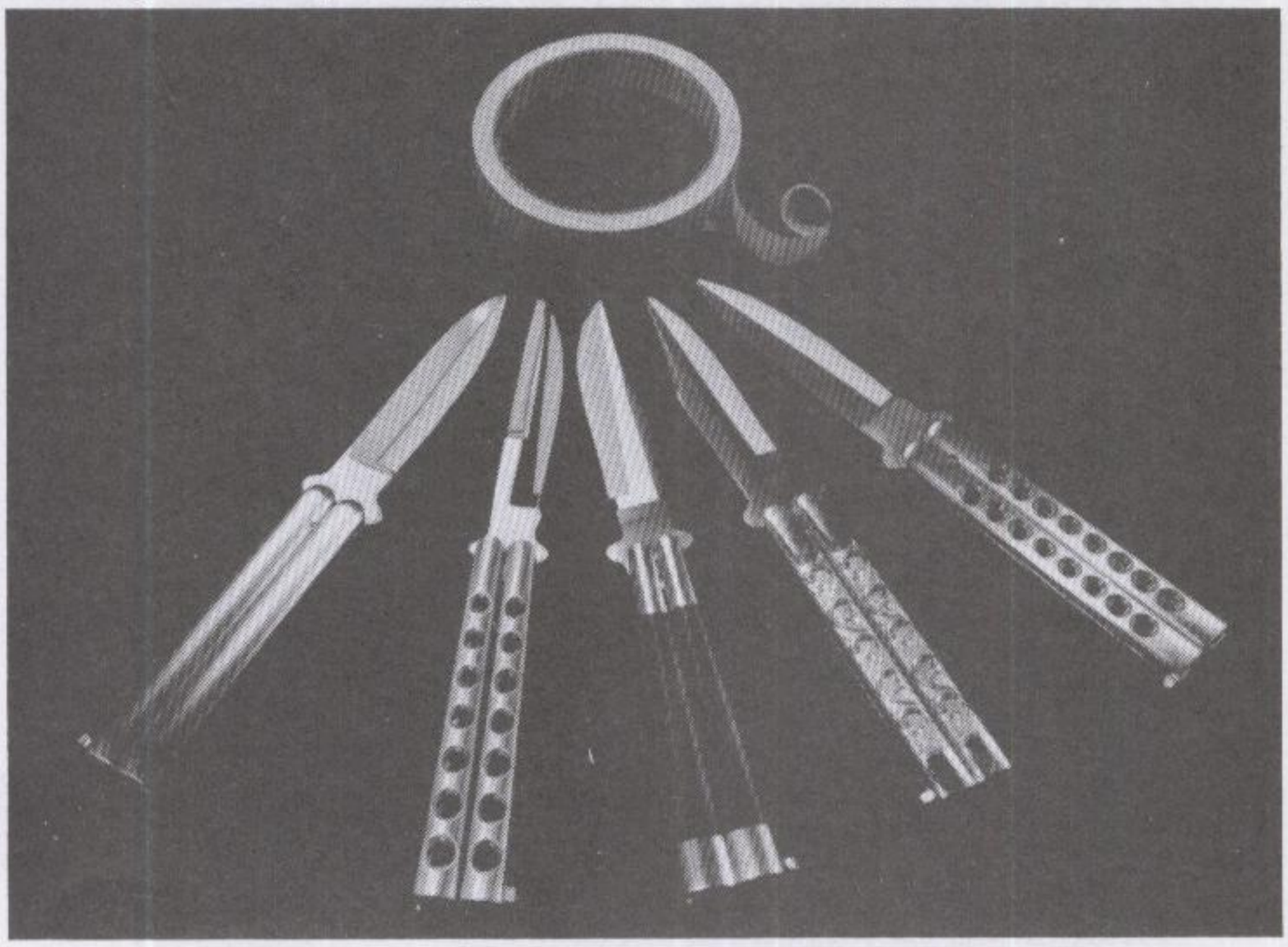
KNIFE SAFETY— YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

Safety must be the first and constant consideration of everyone who handles a balisong.

It is your legal and moral obligation to handle, carry and use your balisong in such a manner as to prevent any accident from occurring.

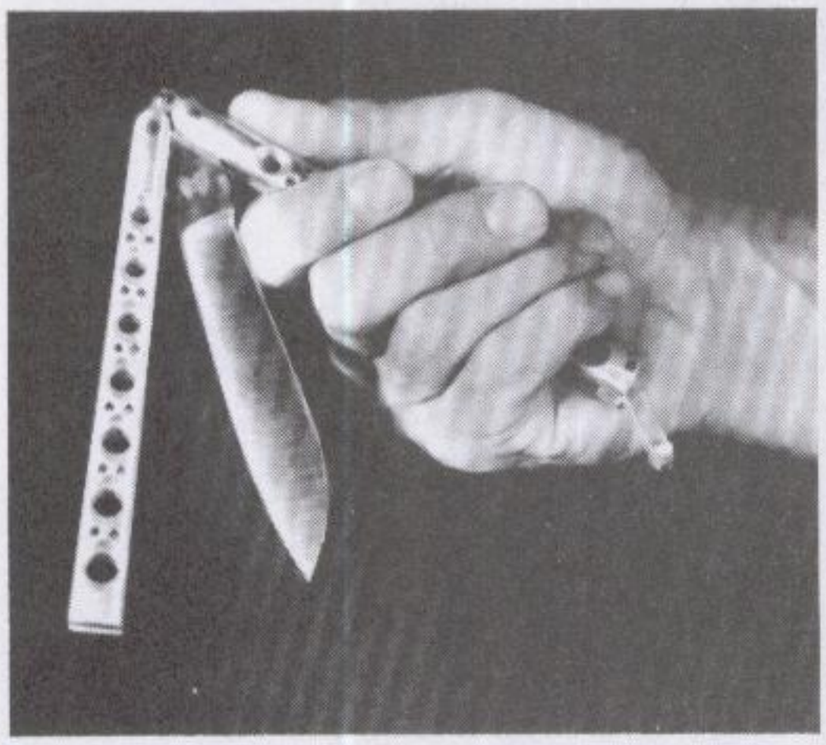
Before you attempt to use a balisong in any way, READ THIS COMPLETE MANUAL CAREFULLY. With the manual in hand, practice all the steps relating to the operation of the balisong. Practice repeatedly, until you can go through each step with absolute confidence. Your goal should be to familiarize yourself with the weapon until it is like a natural extension of your hands.

The author and publisher assume no liabilities whatsoever for any injury which may occur by using the manual or by using or manipulating the Filipino balisong knife.

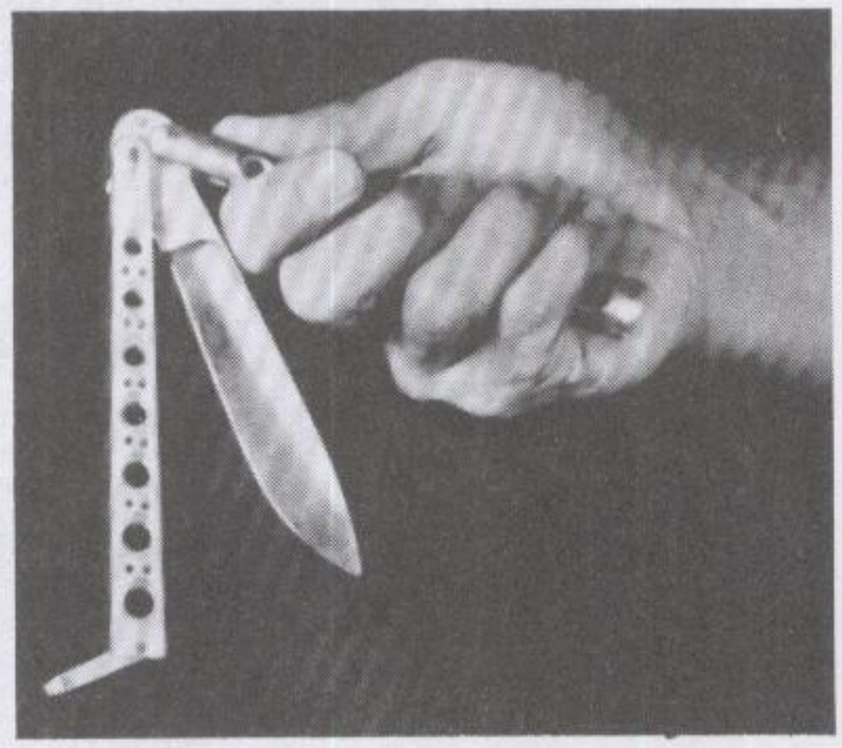


WARNING: TAPE ALL THE SHARP EDGES OF YOUR BLADE NOW! I guarantee you will get cut if you don't. Don't remove the tape until you have finished reading and have tried the exercises two or three times.

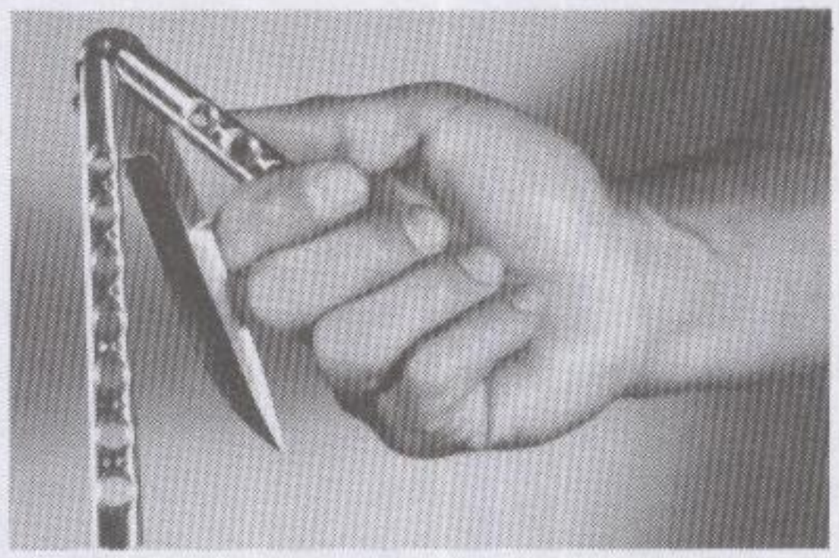
WARNING!



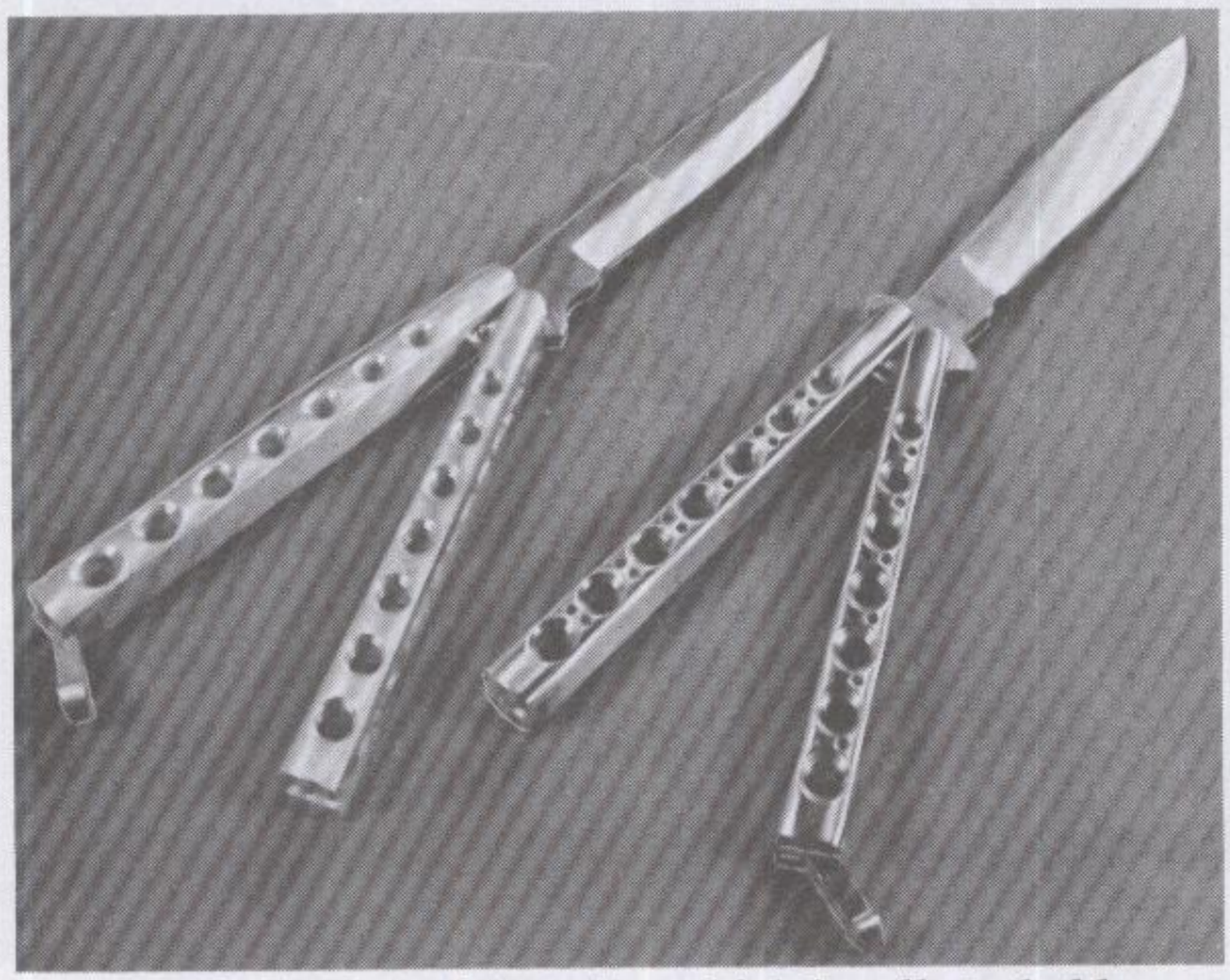
The WRONG way to hold the balisong. Note the cutting edge of the blade hitting your fingers. You WILL get cut.



The RIGHT way to hold the balisong. Note the back side of the blade hitting your fingers. You WON'T get cut.



If your balisong has 1½ sharp edges (shown) choke up on the handle to avoid getting cut. By pulling back on the blade at just the right moment you can prevent the blade from touching your hand at all.



Don't use the latch to determine which handle to hold, because the latch is not always on the same handle. ALWAYS hold the handle with the back (noncutting) side of the blade hitting your fingers.

MANIPULATING THE BALISONG

The grip plays an integral part in assuring continuous action with the balisong. Without it you can lose the weapon or restrict its action. Remember to alternately relax and then tighten the grip on the handle as you rotate the knife or initiate the action. Try to relax your wrist while retaining control of the knife with your fingers. When the wrist is free, speed is enhanced, and maneuverability is assured.

With constant practice you develop a feel for every movement. In time, practice will enable you to control the balisong almost unconsciously. Moreover, practicing with the balisong is a lot of fun and you won't be able to put it down. As a matter of fact, balisongs have been called the "macho pacifier," since so many burly martial artists are constantly playing with them for relaxation and dexterity enhancement. The balisong is also a flashy device to impress your friends and to discourage your enemies.

The easiest way to master the examples shown in this book are to break them down into small groups and master one segment at a time. For instance, if there is a routine with 18 moves, simply isolate the groups by practicing steps 1-4, 5-8, 9-12, and 13-18 separately. After mastering the individual groups, you can finally join them all together and have the whole routine down pat. It is easier and faster to learn in this manner.

Before you start each technique, be sure to determine where the back side of the blade is located in relation to the example pictured and in relation to your own knife. Make sure you are holding the correct handle (don't go by the latch location alone).

DROP TWIST (outside to inside) AND CATCH OPENING

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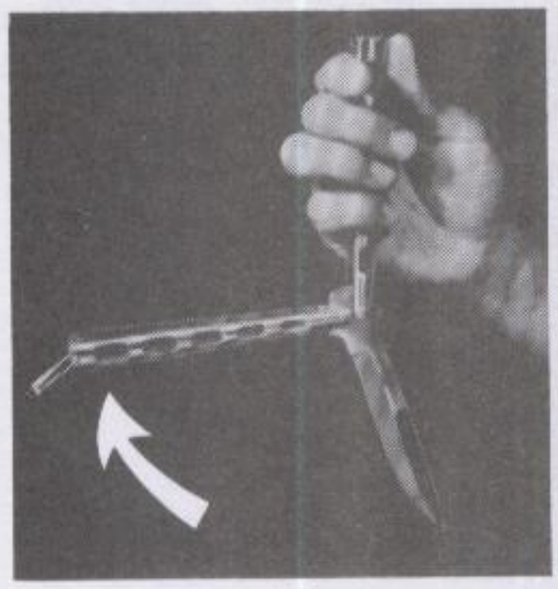
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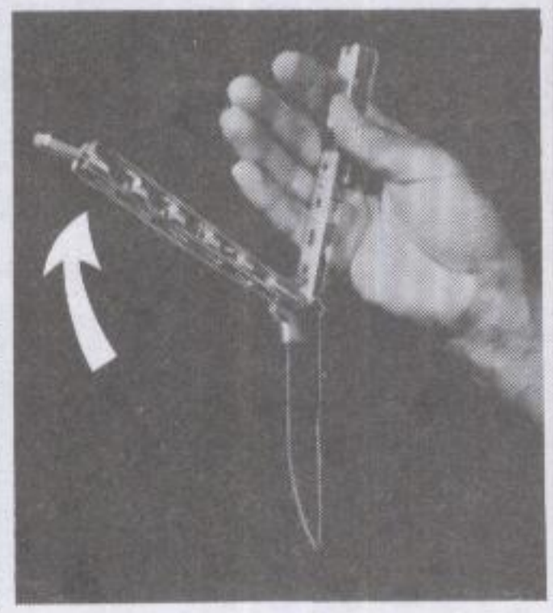
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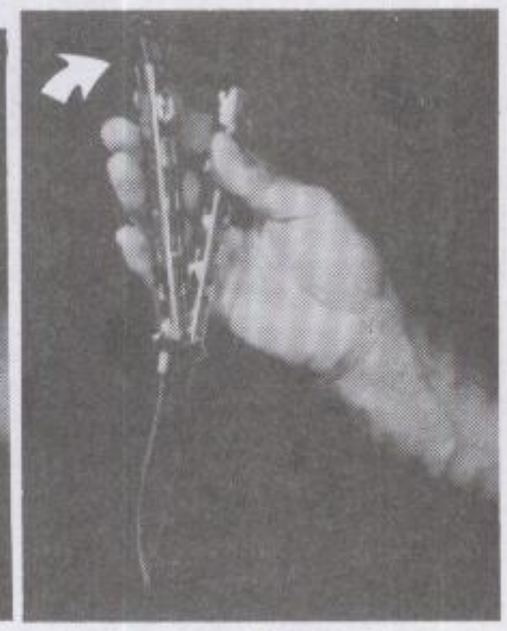
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13

With your fingers gripping the "safe" handle, release and swing the opposing handle down and out, away from you (1, 2, 3, 4 & 5). Before the opposing handle hits your knuckles (6), swing the handle down in the opposite direction and rotate the safe handle, one-quarter turn, counterclockwise (7, 8 & 9). Change the handle direction again, by swinging the opposing handle up (10). Prepare to catch the up-swinging handle (11, 12 & 13).

TWIST AND CATCH CLOSING

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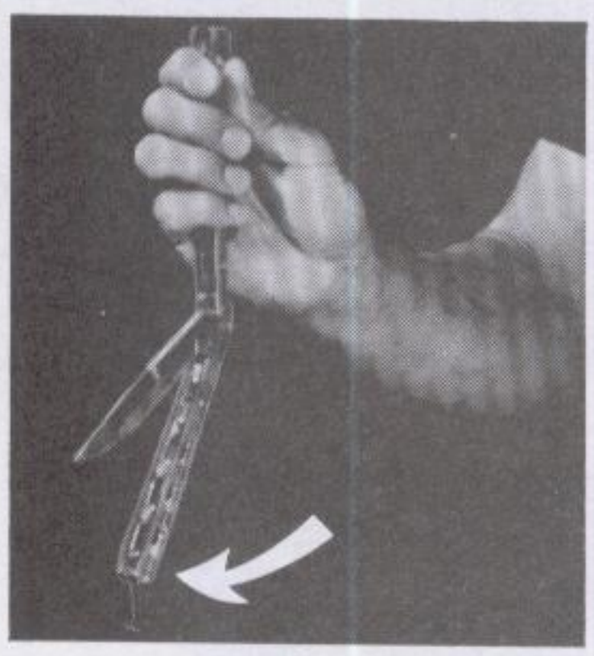

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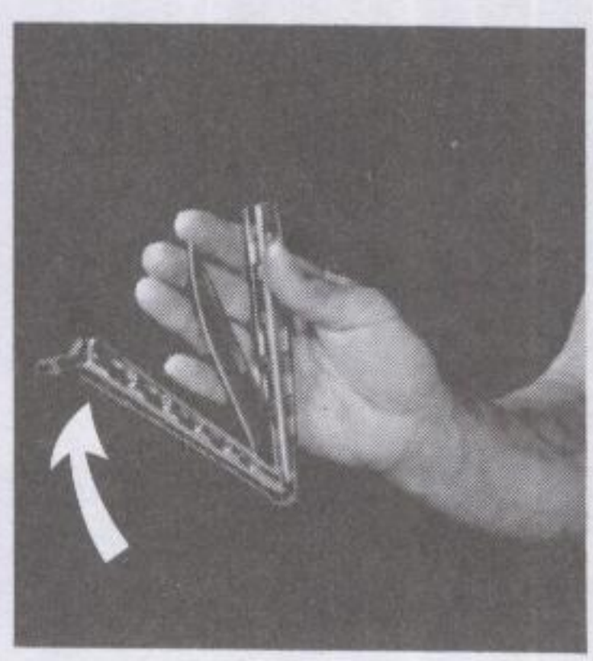

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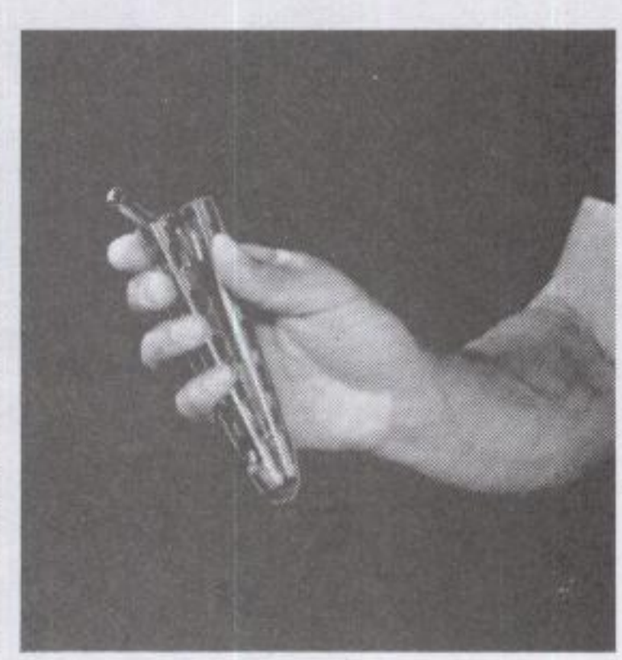

8

From an ice-pick grip, retain the "safe" handle with your palm and thumb (1). Drop and swing the opposing handle around and up while rotating your grip one-quarter turn, counterclockwise (2 & 3). Just before the opposing handle hits your knuckles (4), swing the handle down in the opposite direction, while rotating the safe handle one-quarter turn, counterclockwise (5). Change the handle direction by swinging the opposing handle up (6). Prepare to catch the up-coming blade and handle (7 & 8).

DOUBLE FLIP OPENING

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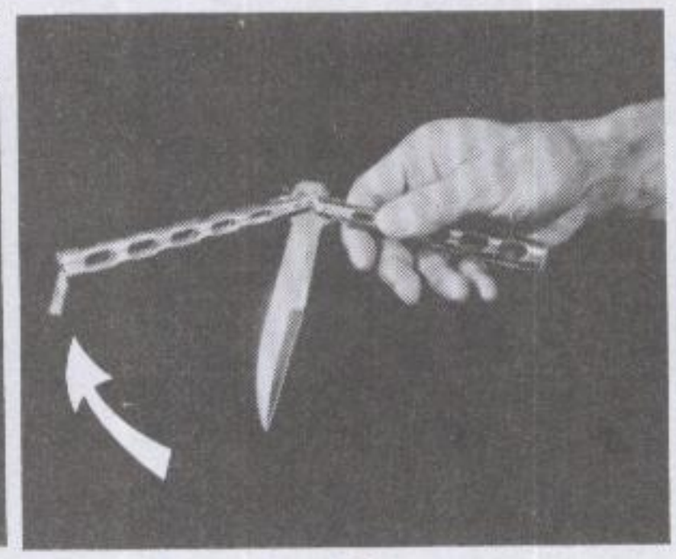

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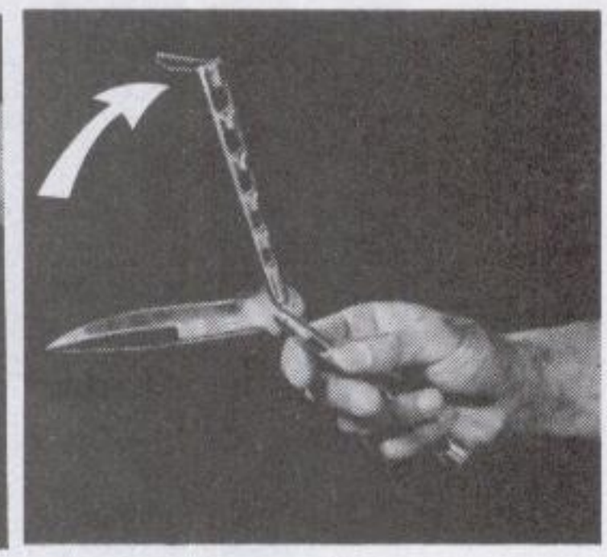

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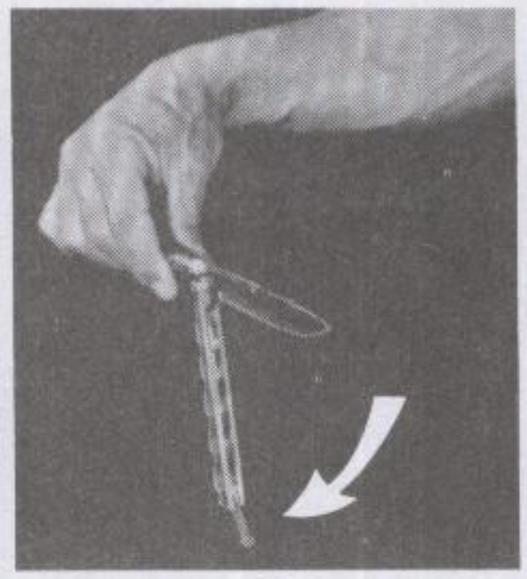

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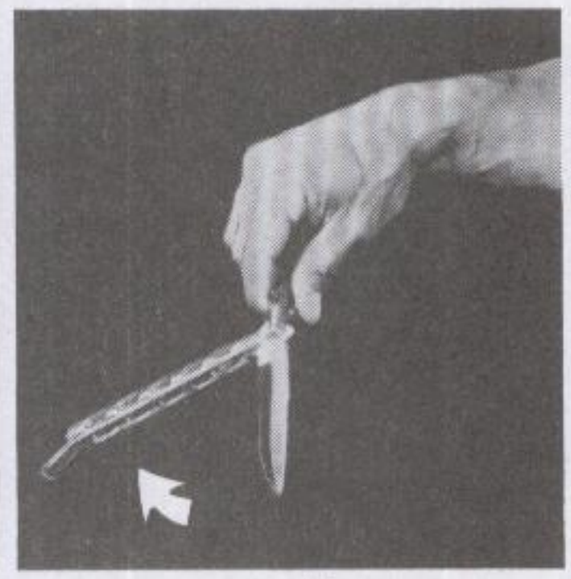

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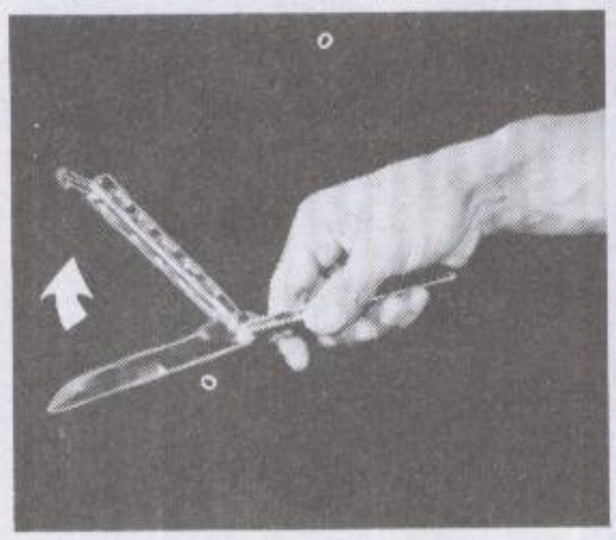

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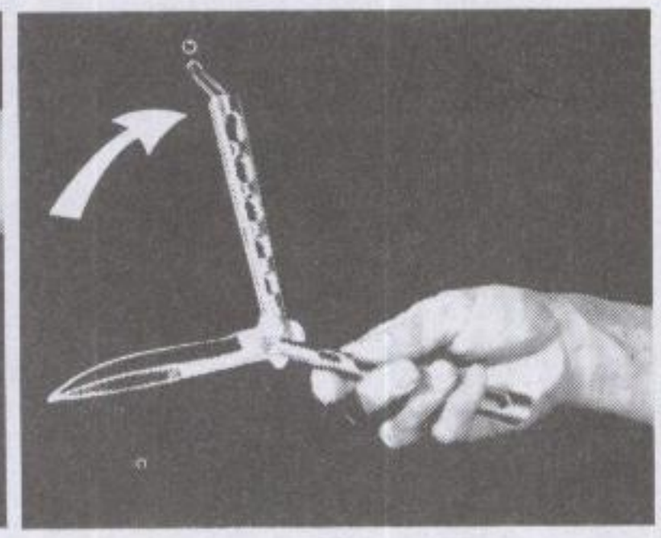

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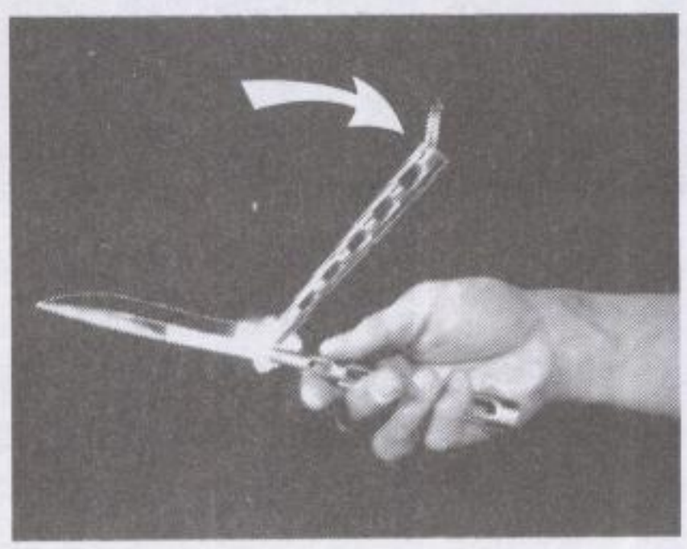

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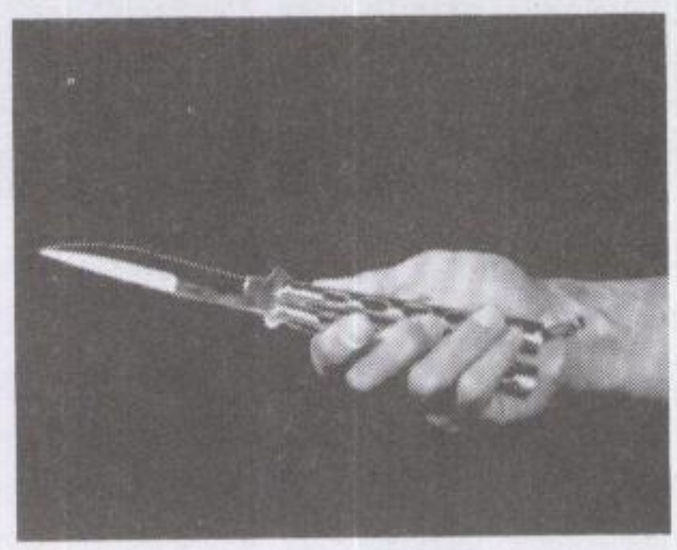
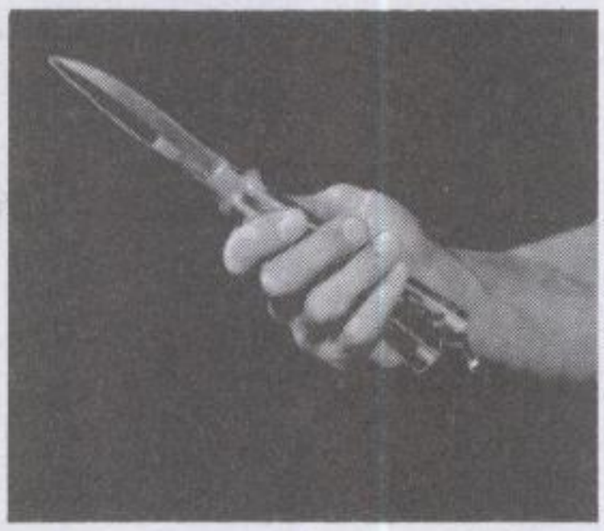


11

Retaining the "safe" handle, drop and swing the lower handle up (1, 2 & 3). As the opposing handle comes over towards you, change your grip by letting the safe handle rotate one-half turn, counterclockwise (4, 5 & 6). Flip the opposing handle up, simultaneously rotating the safe handle another one-half turn, counterclockwise (7 & 8). Change your grip to a palm-up grip to catch the up-coming handle (9, 10 & 11).

SINGLE FLIP, FINGER TWIRL CLOSING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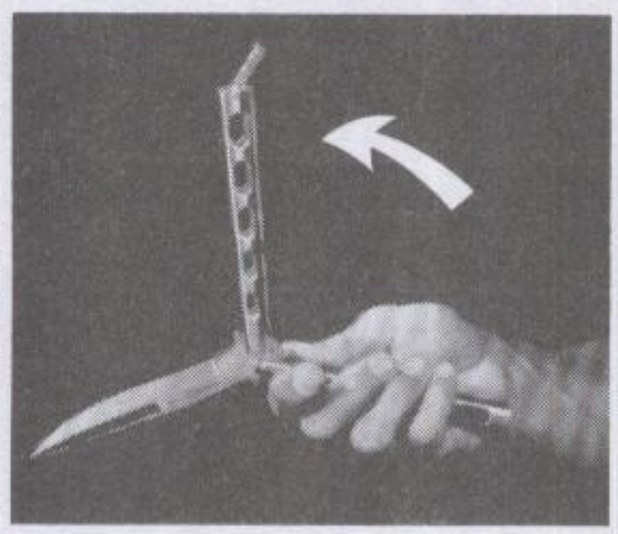
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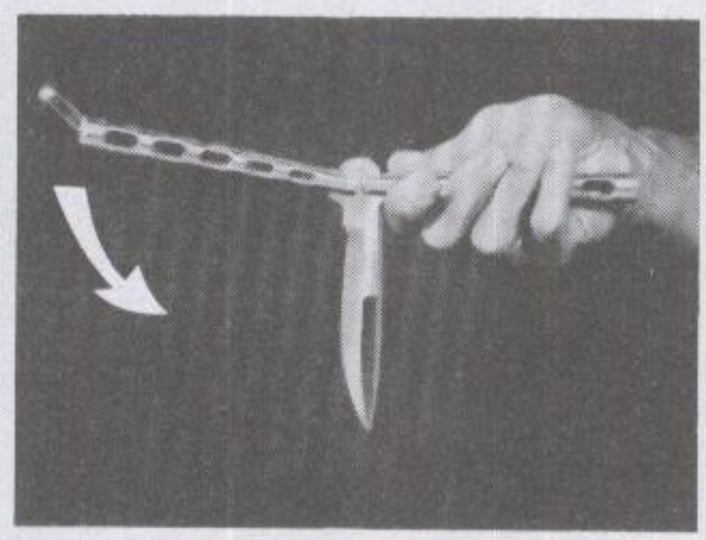
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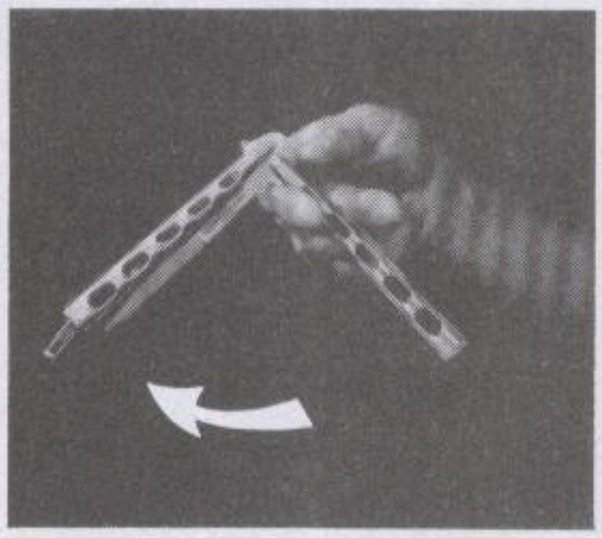
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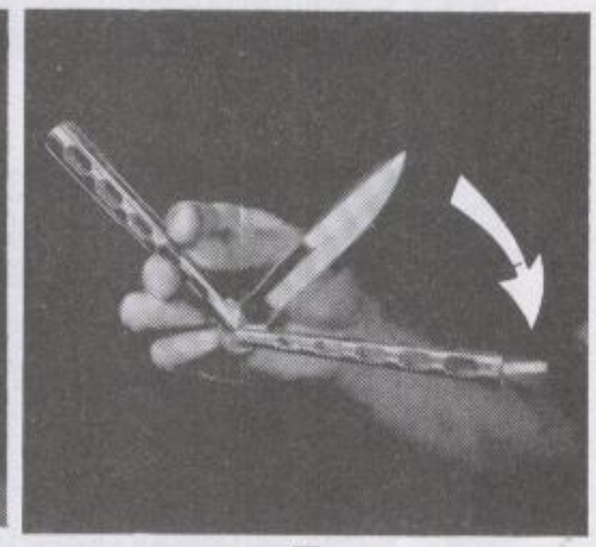
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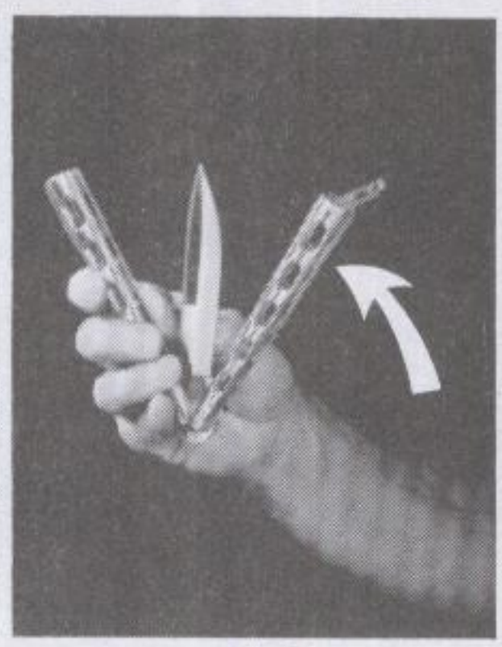
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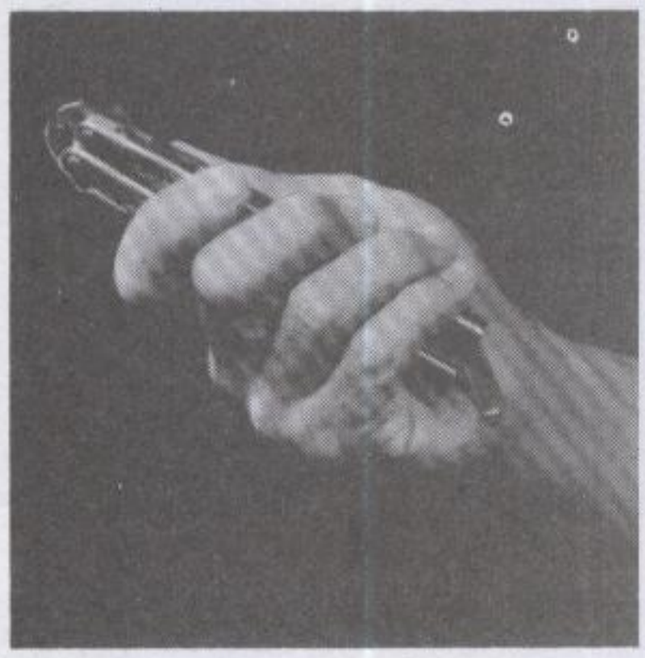
Retaining the "safe" handle, flip the opposing handle up and over (1, 2 & 3). When the handle and blade have traveled about 270°, change your grip by placing your middle finger on top of the safe handle (4 & 5). Reverse the direction of travel by finger twirling the safe handle with your index and middle fingers, causing the opposing handle to swing up (6 & 7). Be sure to keep your other fingers out of the way. As the safe handle approaches a vertical position, reverse the direction of the opposing handle, swinging it up. Simultaneously place your index finger on the backside of the safe handle (8 & 9). Move your thumb out of the way as the opposing handle comes up for the closing (10, 11 & 12).

SINGLE FLIP, INDEX WHIP TWIRL AND CATCH OPENING



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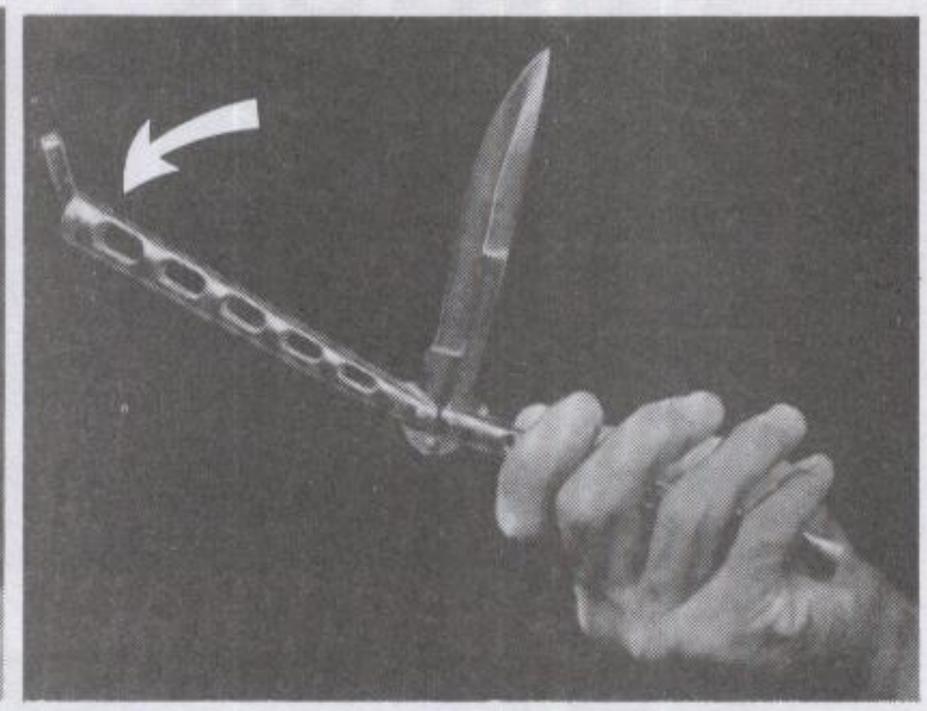

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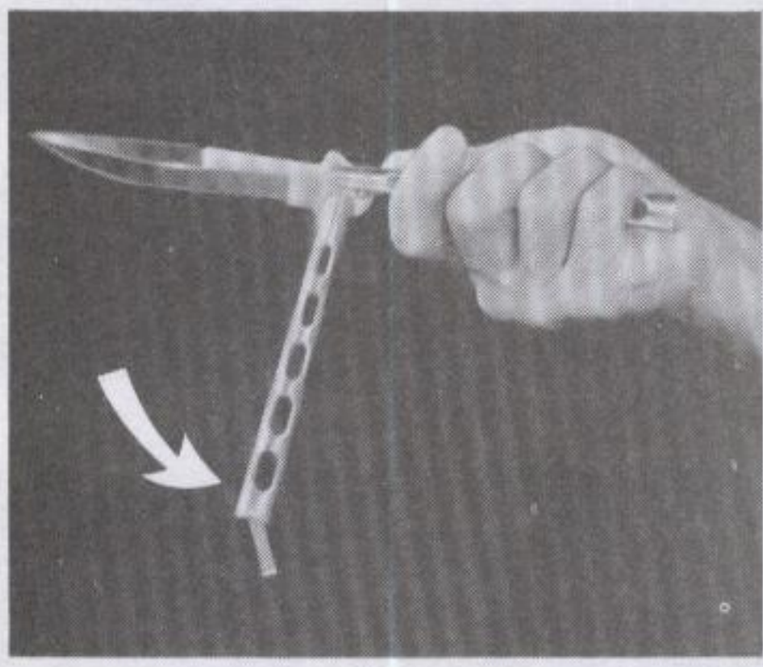

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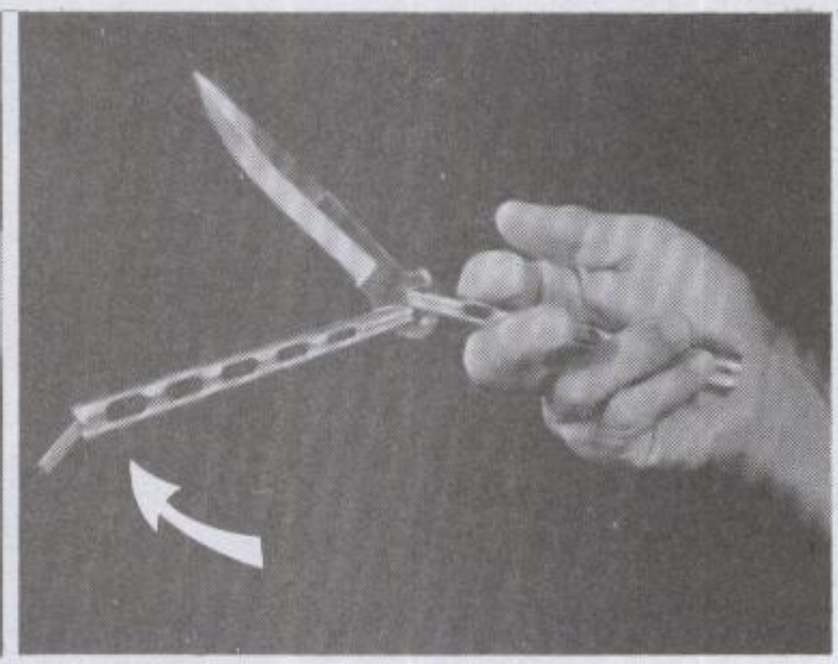

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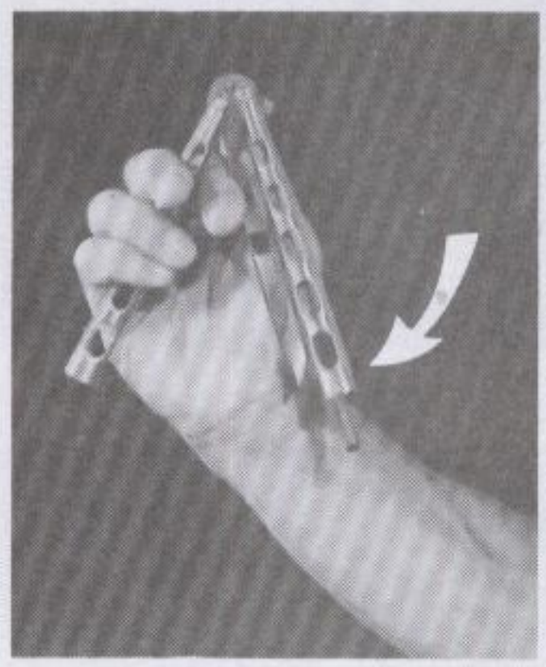

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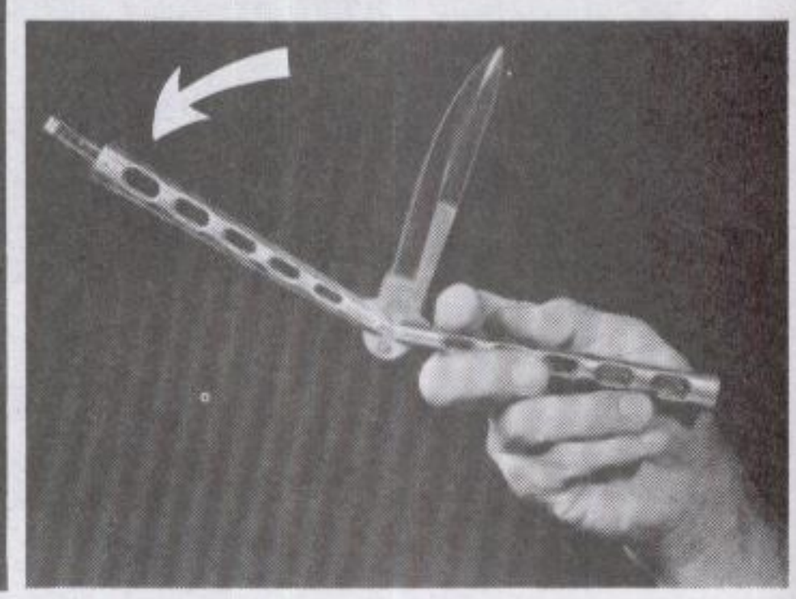

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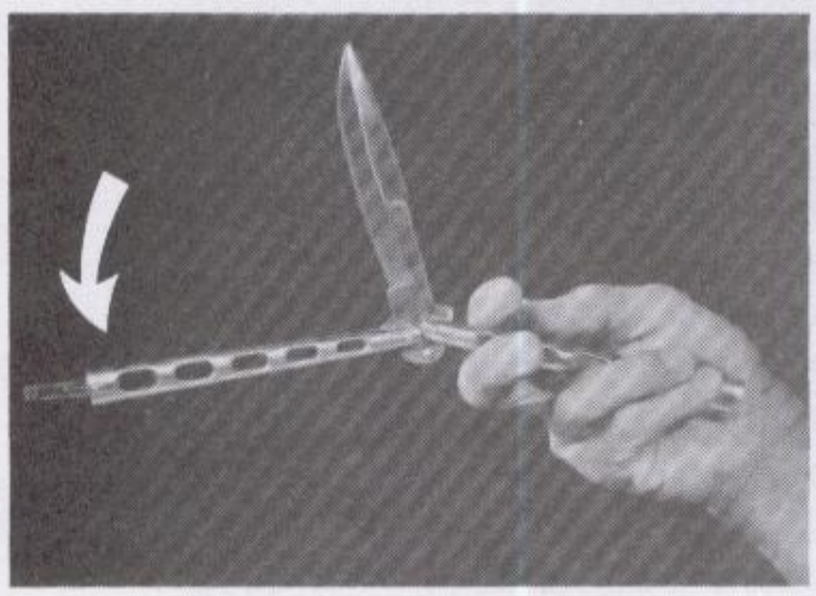

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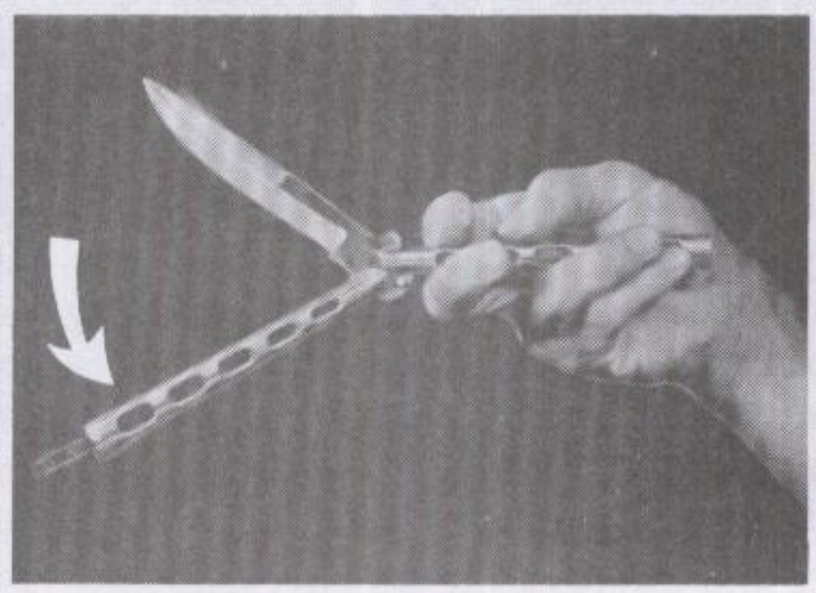

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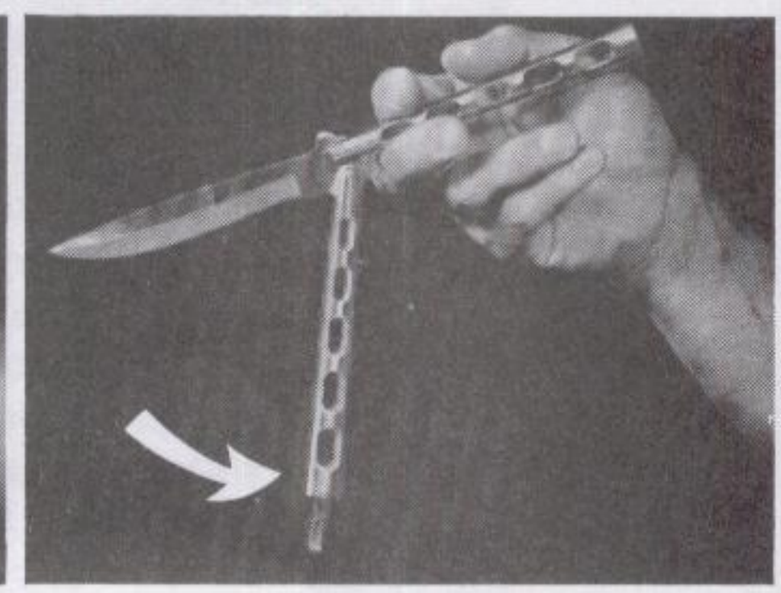

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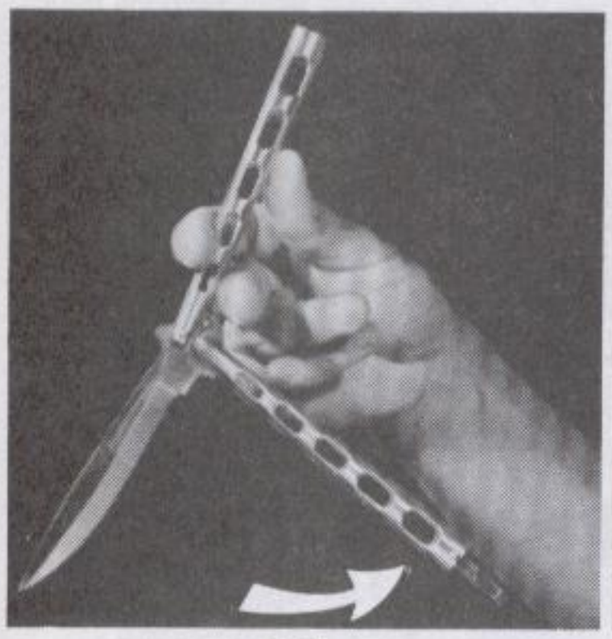
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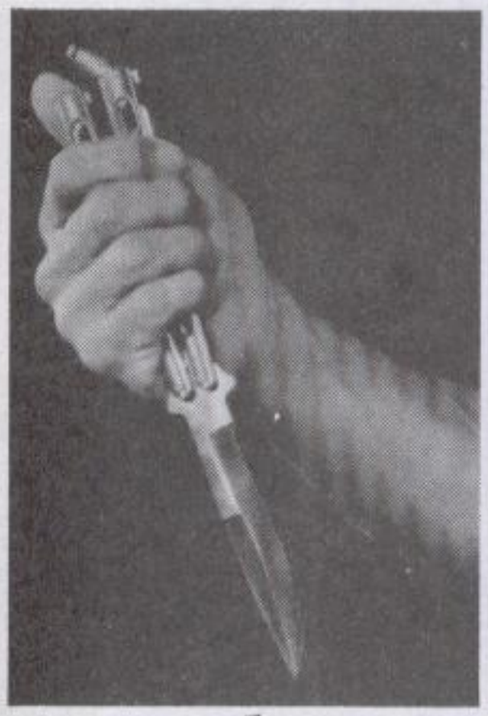
Retaining the "safe" handle in the closed knife position (1), flip the opposing handle up and away from you (2, 3 & 4). Alter your grip by putting your index finger on top of the handle (5), then flip the handle up and in towards you (6, 7 & 8). Reverse the handle direction, going up and out (9, 10, 11 & 12). As the handle continues around, simultaneously change your grip by moving your thumb under and your fingers over the safe handle (13, 14 & 15). Prepare to receive the up-coming handle (16 & 17). You are now in an "ice-pick" grip (see Volume 1—THE BALISONG MANUAL by Jeff Imada).

ICE-PICK CLOSING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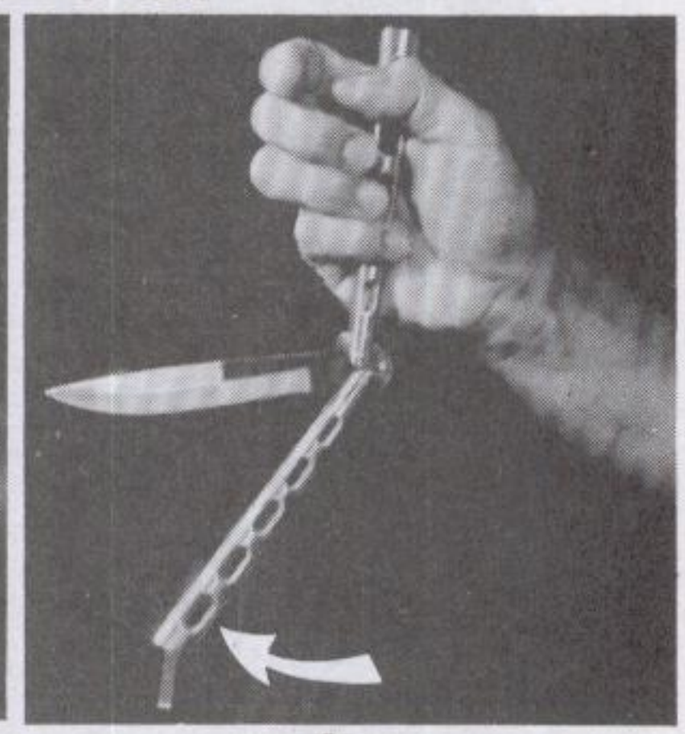
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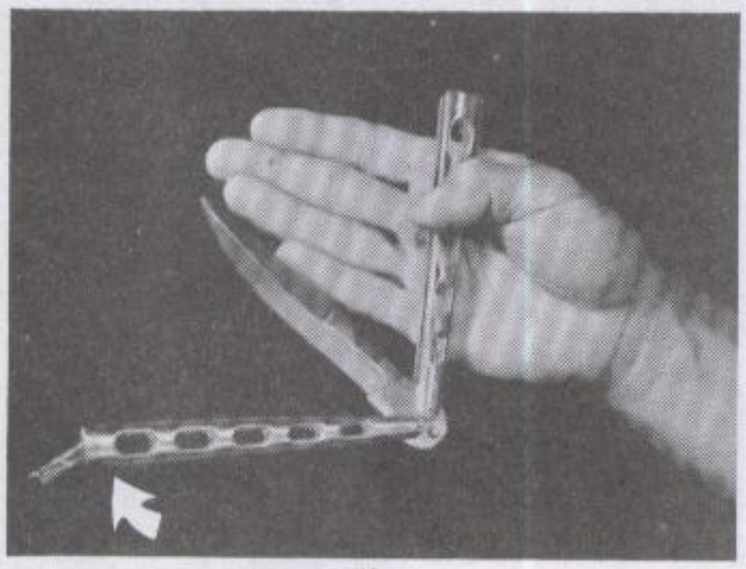
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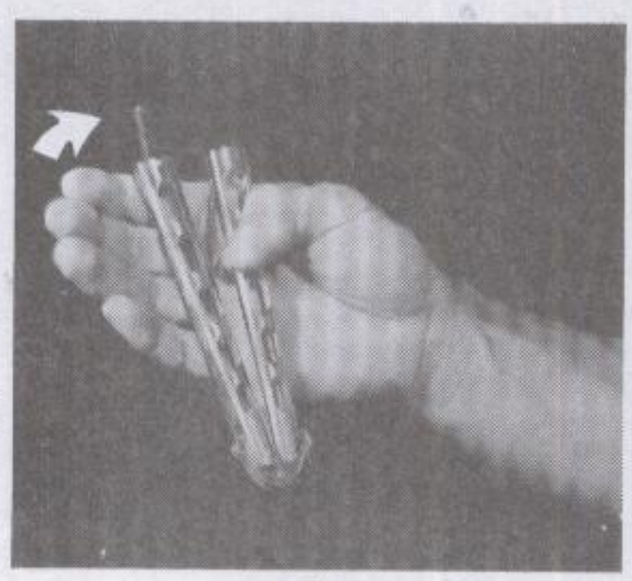
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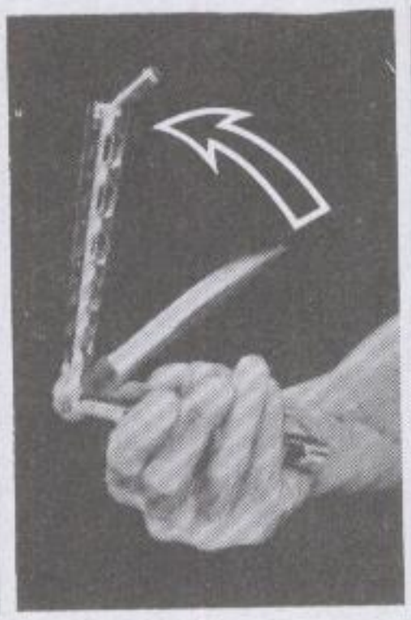
With your fingers gripping the "safe" handle (1), release and swing the opposing handle down and up (2 & 3). Before the handle completes its rotation (4), change to a thumb and open-palm grip (5). Prepare to catch and chamber your balisong (6 & 7). You now have a "yawara" or "tabak malitt" (see THE FILIPINO MARTIAL ARTS by Dan Inosanto).

SINGLE FLIP HELICOPTER SPIN OPENING (clockwise)

1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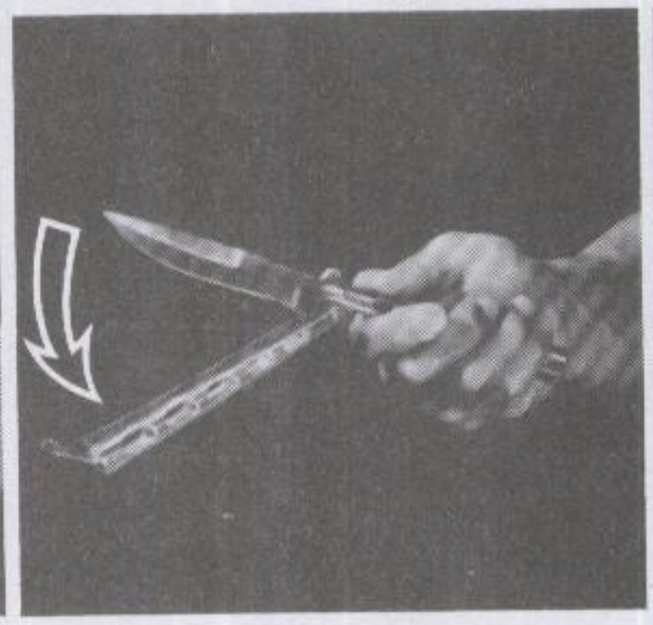
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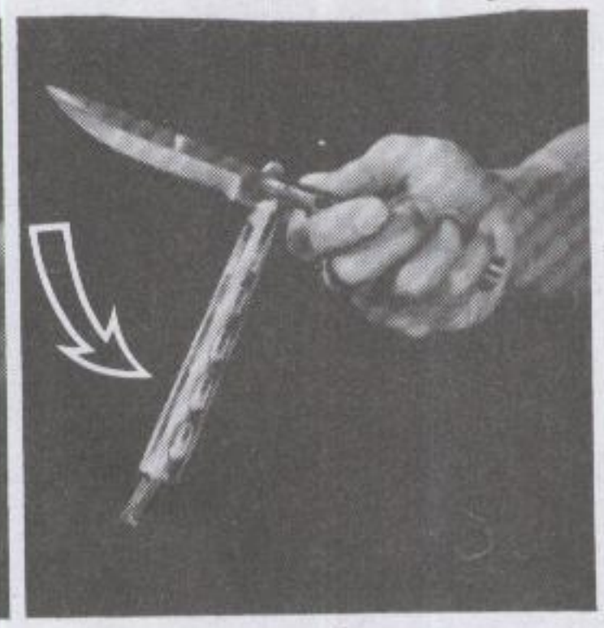
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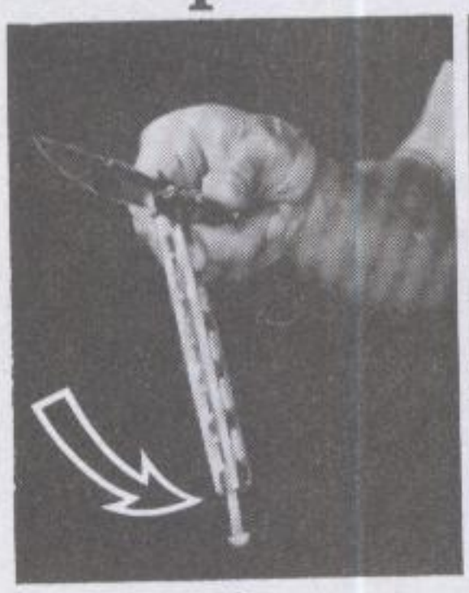
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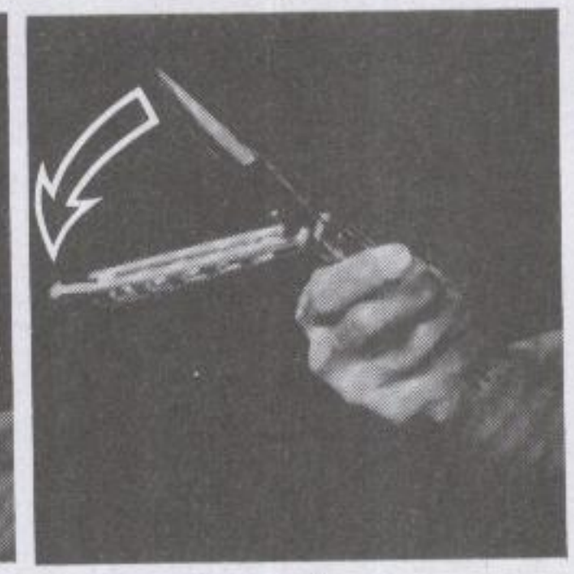
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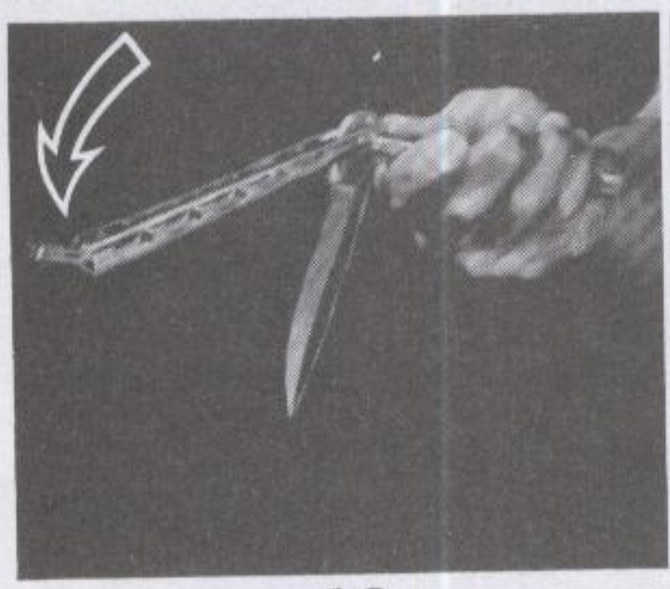
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16

Retaining the "safe" handle, flip the opposing handle up and over (1, 2 & 3). When the handle has traveled about 270°, turn your hand counterclockwise (not rotating knife) from a palm up to a palm down position (4 & 5). With palm down twist the safe handle, clockwise, letting it spin freely in your hand. The opposing handle should rotate, in a complete circle, 1½ (or as many as you like) revolutions (4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 & 10). As the opposing handle faces you, flip it out and over (11 & 12). Before the back side of the blade hits the back of your index finger (13 & 14), reverse the direction of handle travel by swinging it up and in (15). Prepare to catch the up-coming handle (16).

17

SINGLE FLIP HELICOPTER SPIN OPENING (counterclockwise)

1

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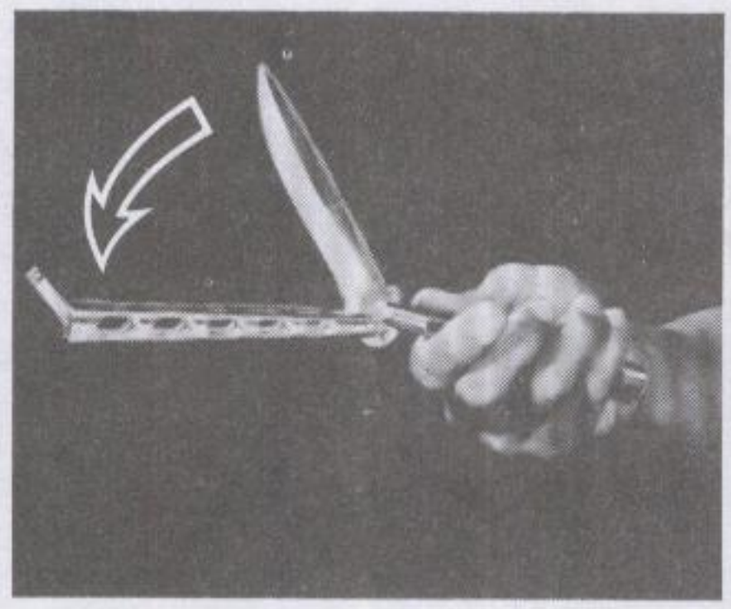
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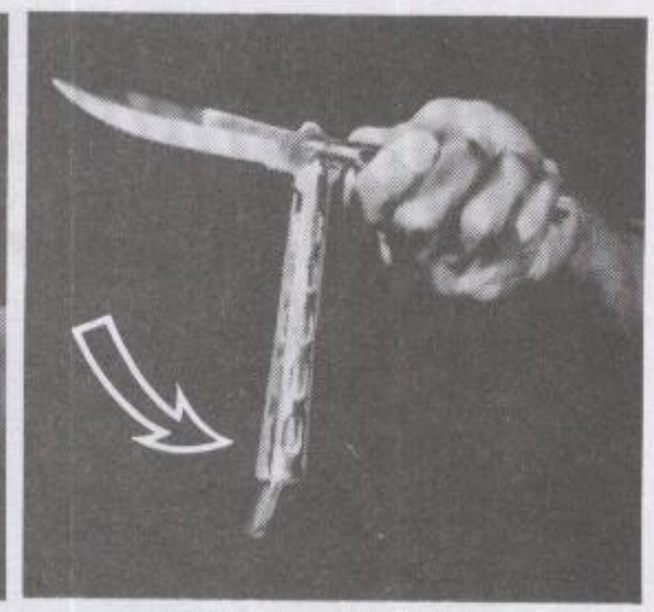
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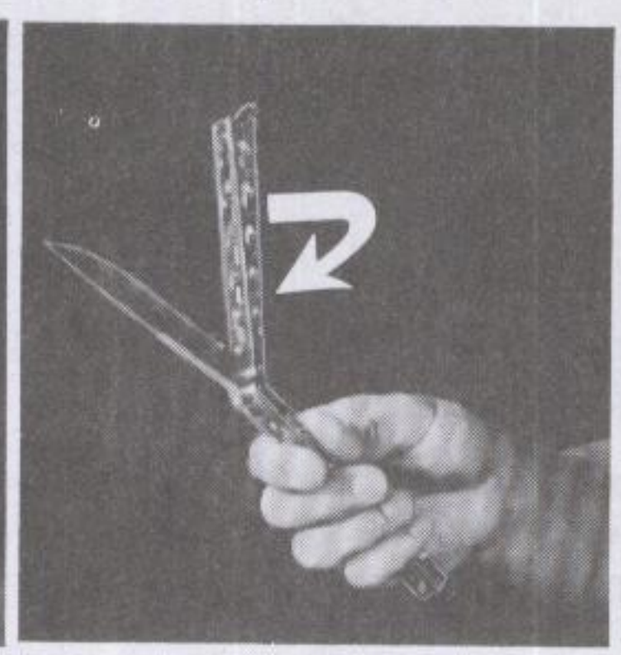
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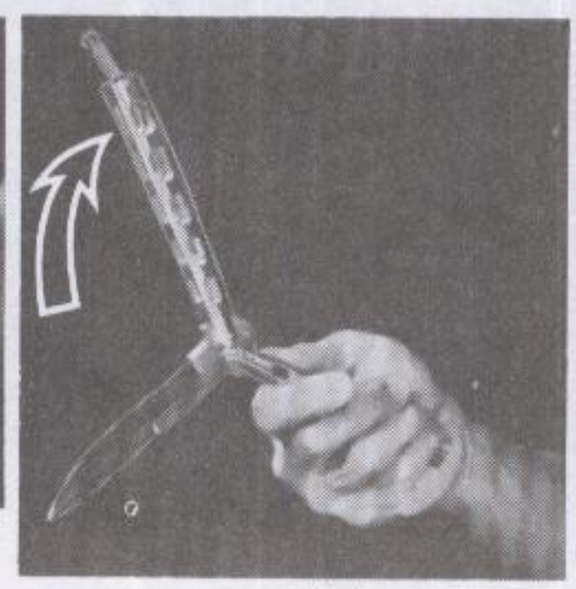
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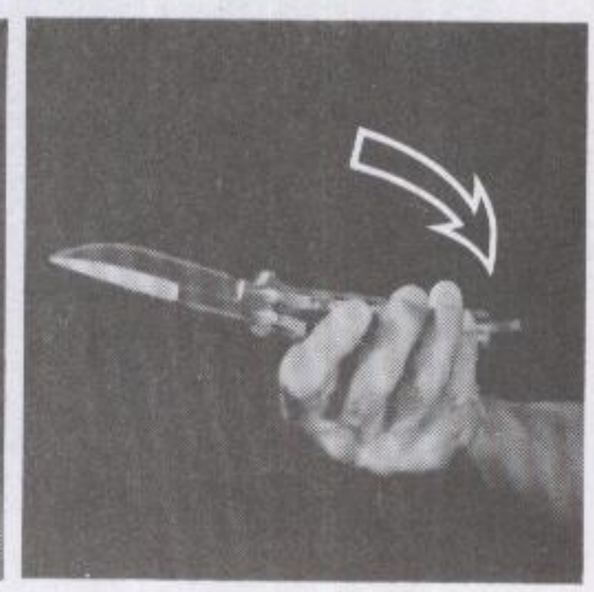
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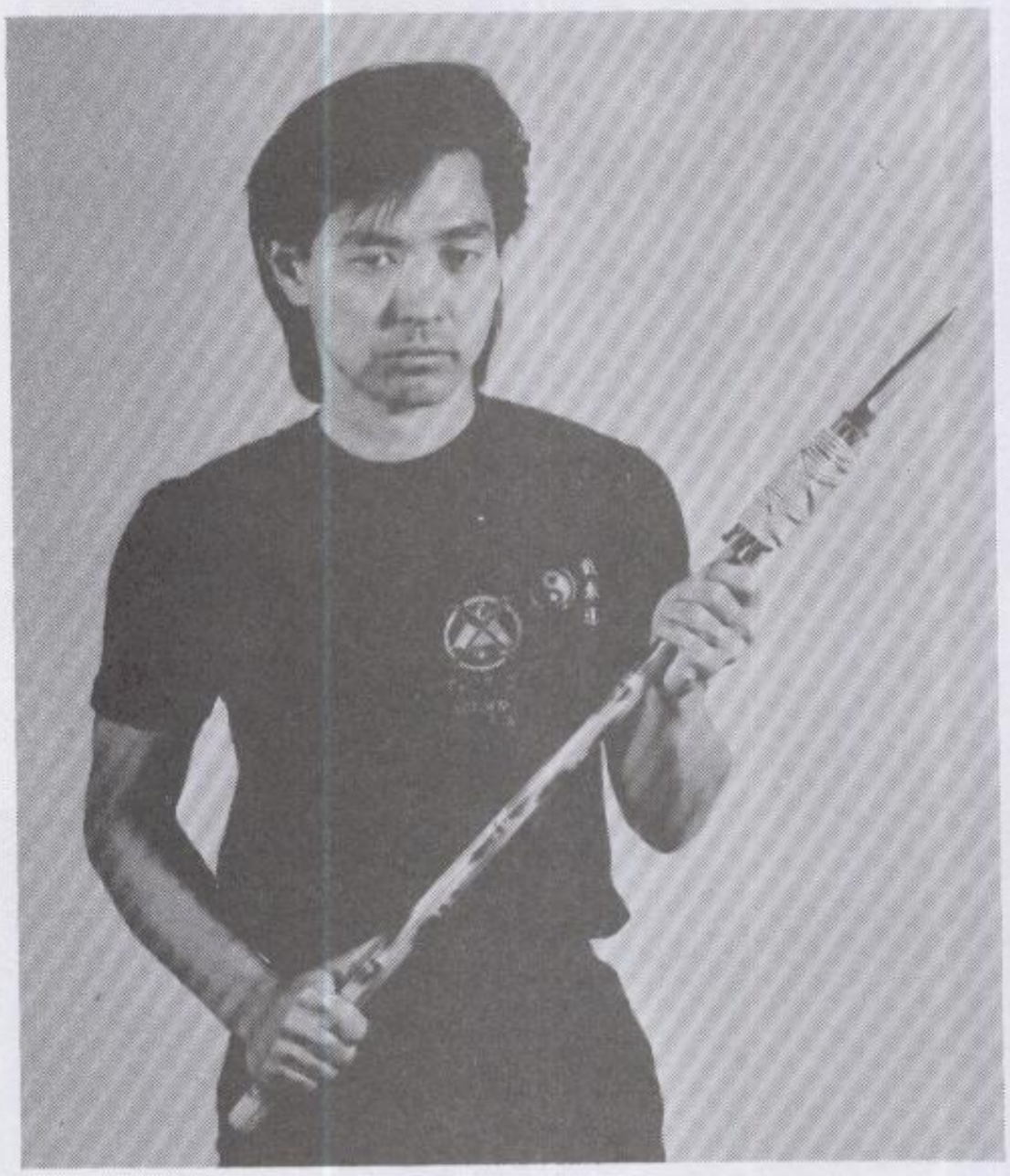
Retaining the "safe" handle, flip the opposing handle up and over (1, 2 & 3). When the opposing handle has traveled about 270°, twist the safe handle, counterclockwise, letting it spin freely in your hand. The opposing handle should rotate in a complete circle about 1½ revolutions (4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 & 10). As the opposing handle faces you, flip it out and over (11 & 12). Before the back side of the blade hits the back of your index finger (13), reverse the handle direction by swinging the opposing handle up and in (14). Prepare to catch the up-coming handle (15 & 16).



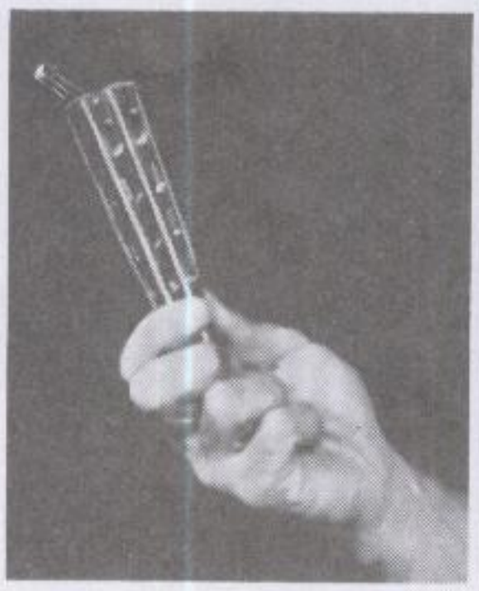
The balisong is much more than a knife. With a little ingenuity, it can be used as a yawara, tabak maliit, Kubotan, spear and garrote.

FIRST AID

In case of severe bleeding, it is essential first to stop the bleeding, then to get medical assistance. Bleeding from cuts can usually be controlled by applying direct pressure to the wound.

1. Make a pad of clean cloth, using a handkerchief or clothing.
2. Place pad on wound.
3. If the wound is on an extremity, elevate that extremity above the victim's head if possible.
4. Press and hold pad until bleeding stops. Most bleeding will stop within 5 to 15 minutes.

FINGER SNAP, HELICOPTER SPIN AND SINGLE FLIP OPENING



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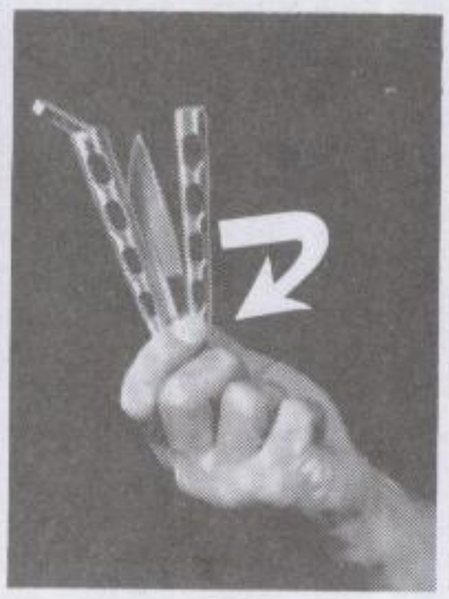

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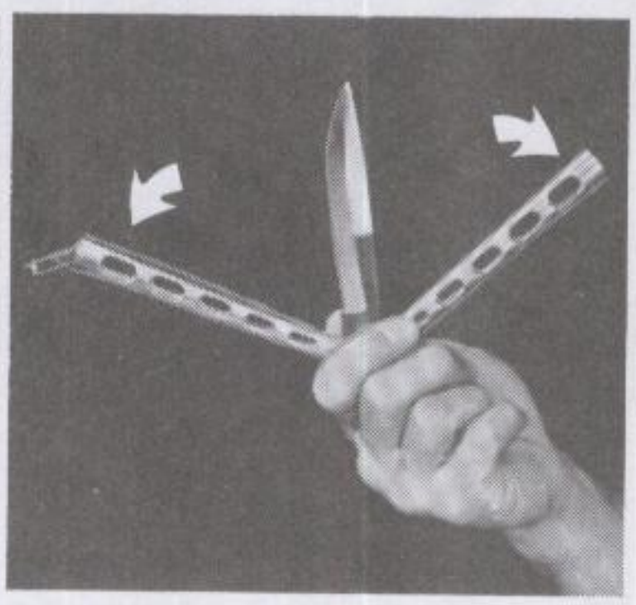

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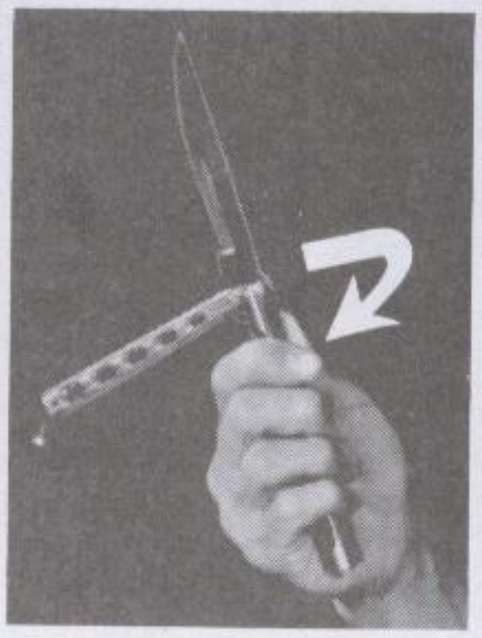

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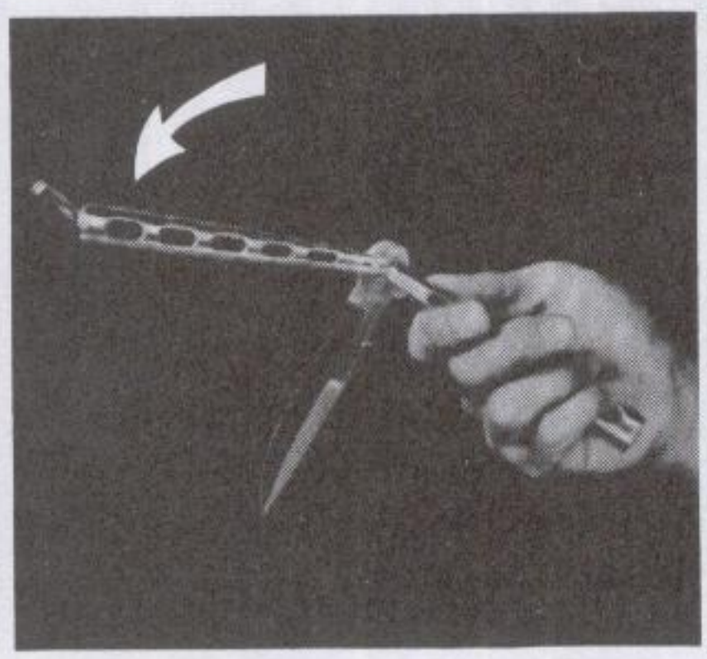

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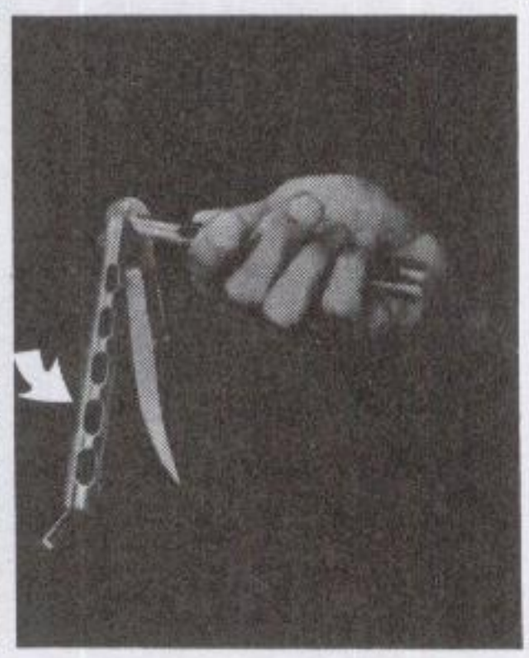

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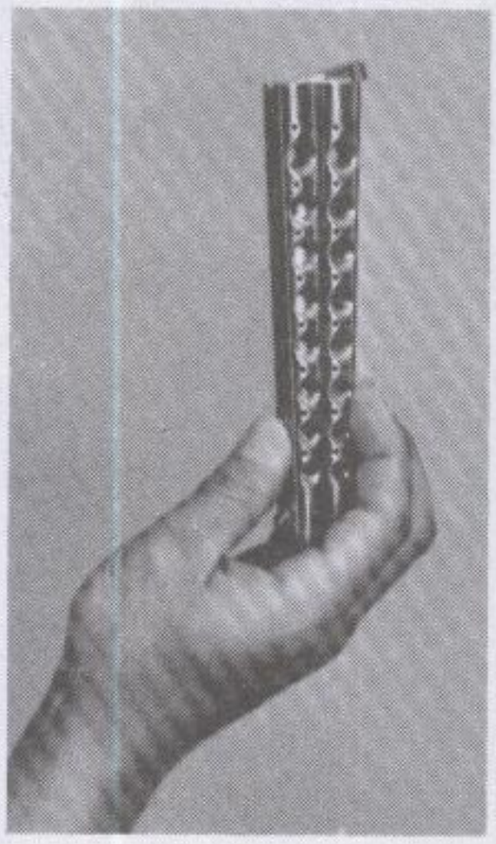
16

Hold the tang end of the closed balisong, with your thumb on the back side of the "safe" handle (1). Rotate the knife one-quarter turn, clockwise, and let the handles fall away from each other (2 & 3). Catch the safe handle (4). Twist the safe handle, clockwise. Let it spin freely in your hand until the opposing handle rotates, in a circle, about 1½ revolutions (5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11). As the opposing handle faces you, flip it out and over (12 & 13). Before the safe side of the blade hits the back of your index finger (14), reverse the direction of travel by swinging the opposing handle, up and in (15). Prepare to catch the up-coming handle (16).

FINGER SNAP AND DOUBLE FLIP OPENING



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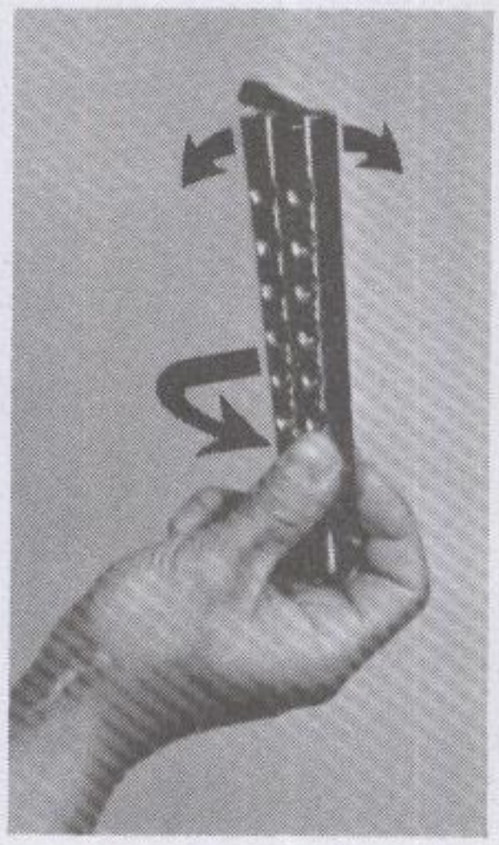

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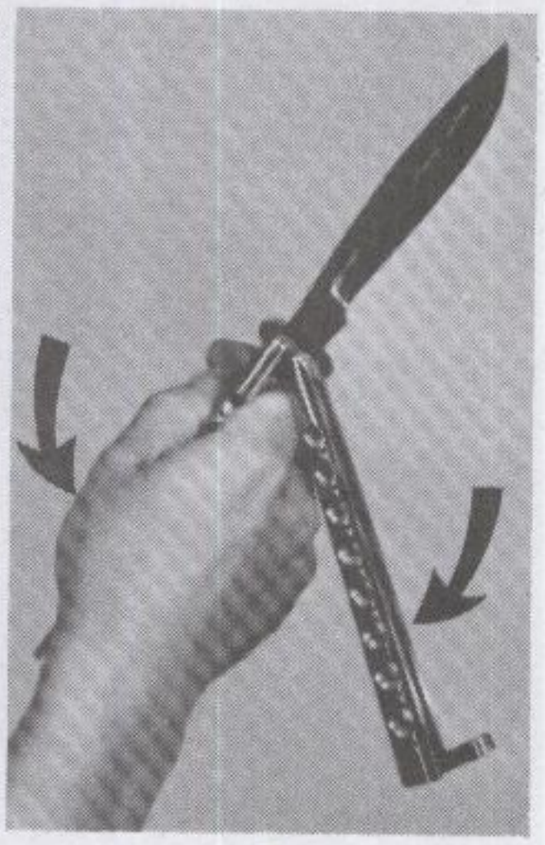

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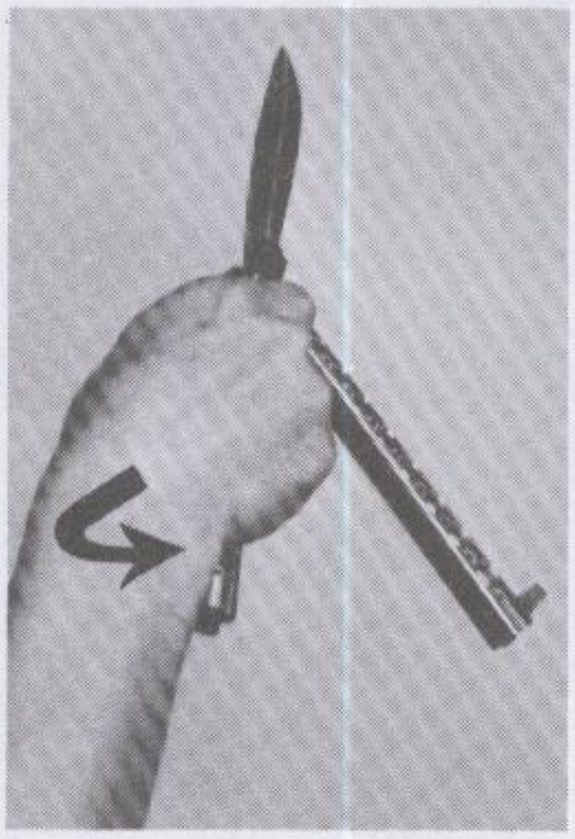

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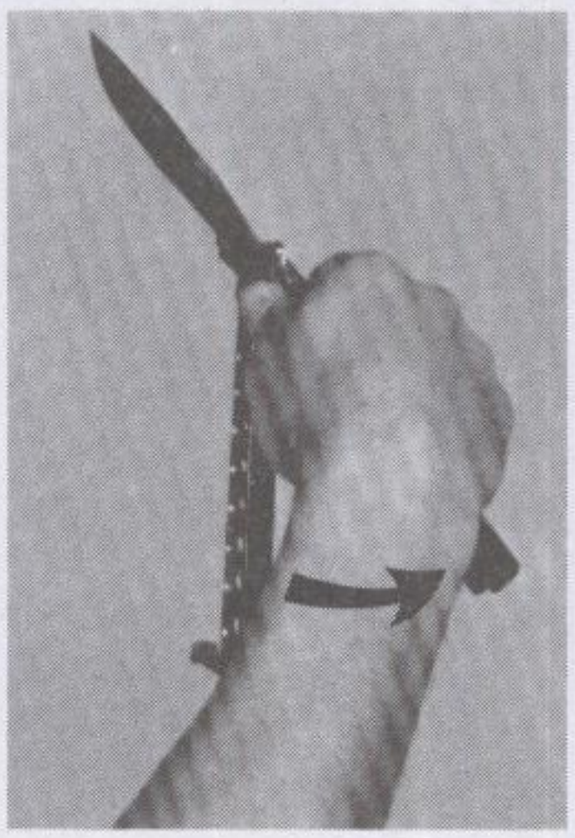

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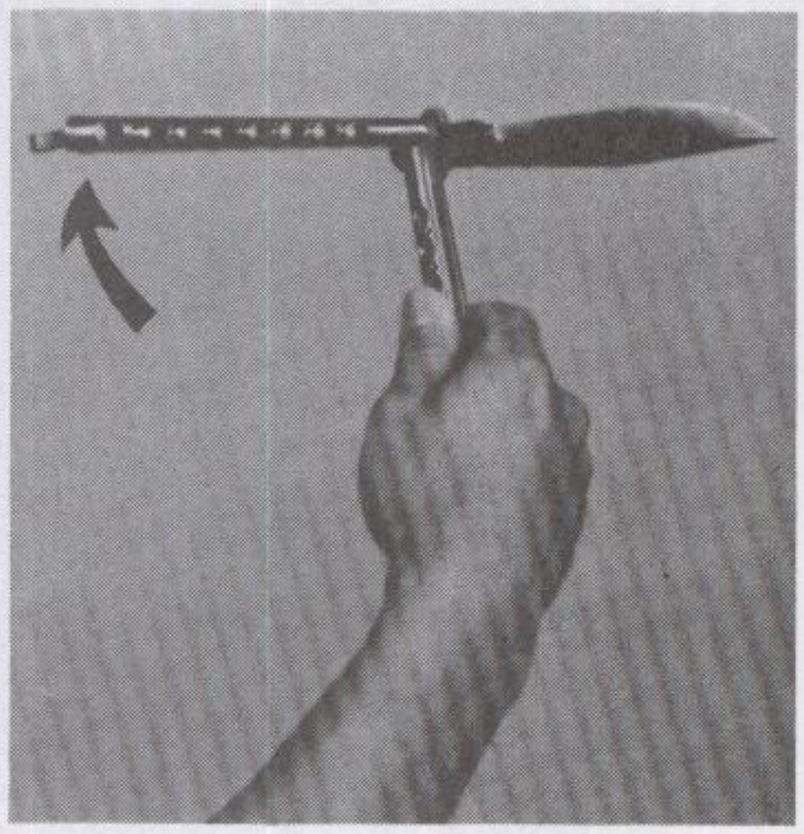

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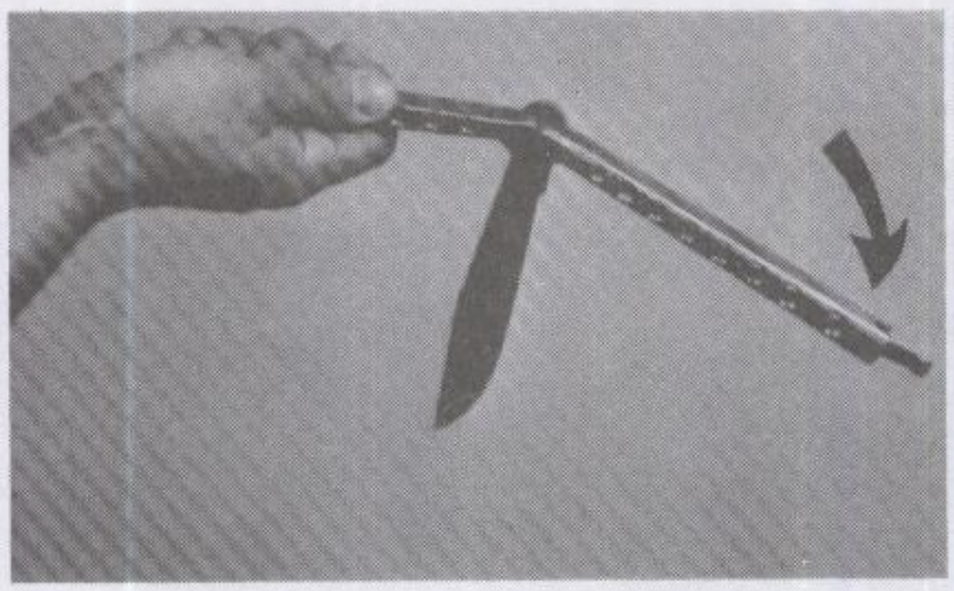

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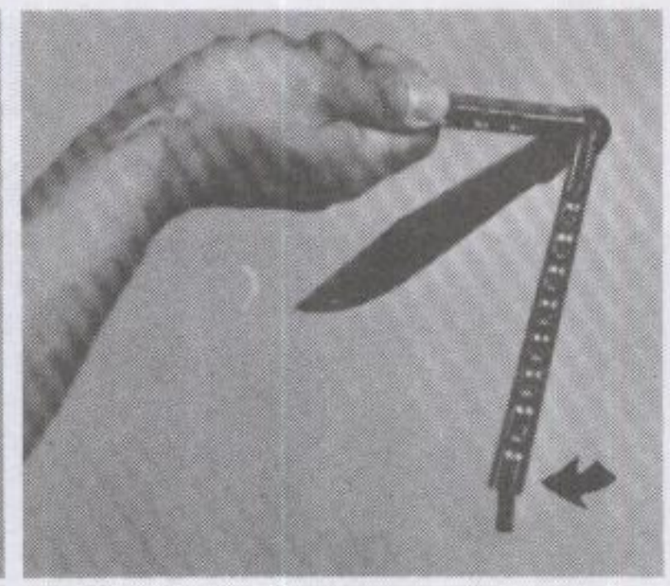

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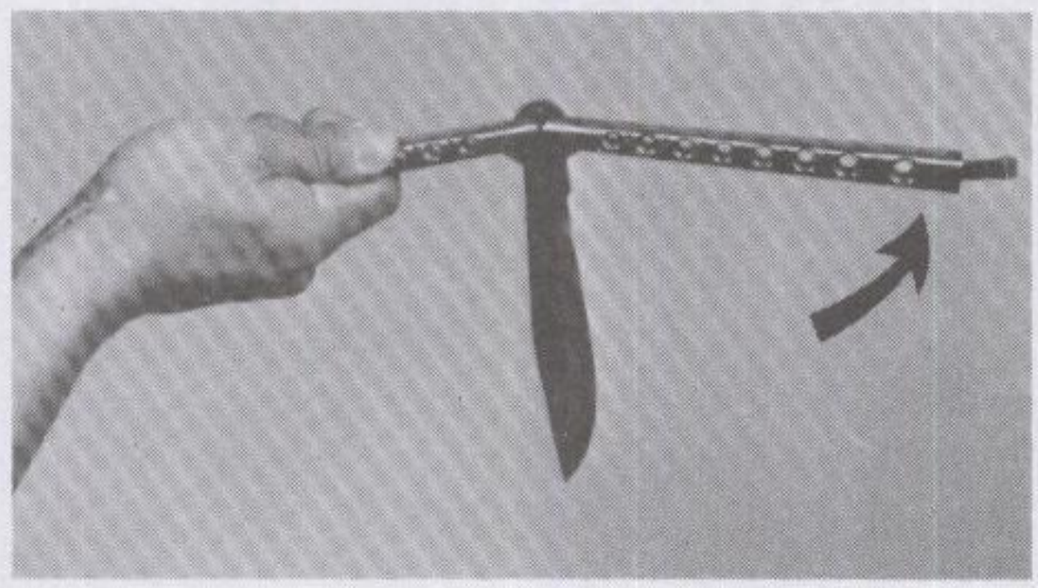

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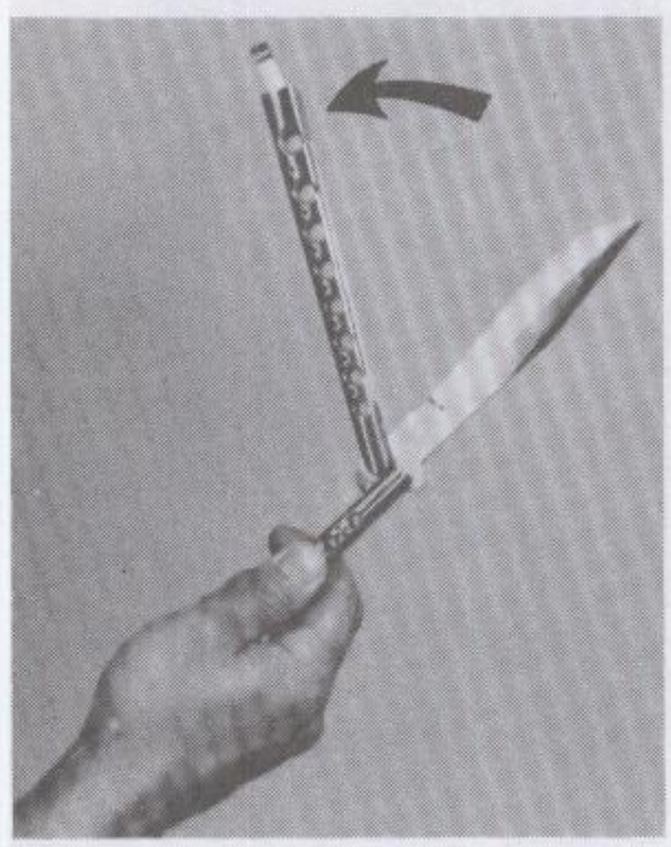

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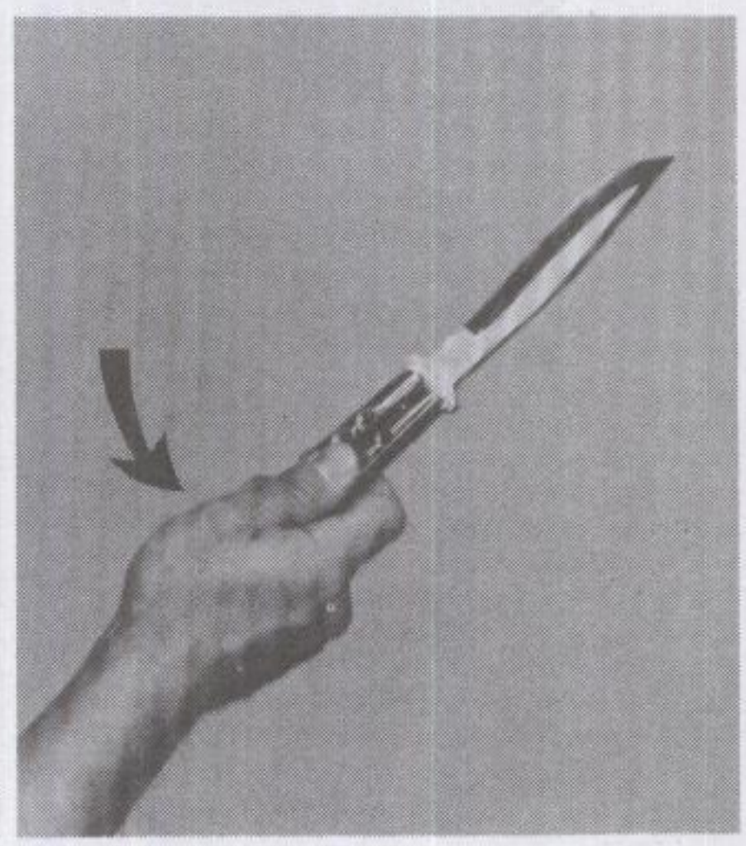
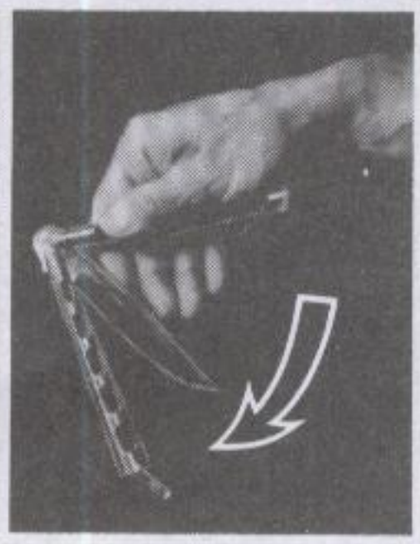


11

Hold the tang end, of the closed balisong, upright in your palm, with the "safe" handle away from you (1). Snap your fingers, causing the knife to rotate one-quarter turn, counterclockwise (2). Using your thumb to control the safe handle, let the handles fall open. Grasp the safe handle and let the opposing handle drop to your knuckles (3). Rotate your hand (not turning the knife) from a palm-up to a palm-down position (4). Rotate your hand, in a clockwise motion, to flip the blade away from you by turning your palm and knife up and over (5, 6 & 7). Just before the safe side of the blade hits the back of your hand (8), reverse the blade travel direction and swing the handle in the opposite direction (9). Prepare to catch the up-coming handle (10 & 11). You are now in a "foil grip" (see Volume 1—THE BALISONG MANUAL by Jeff Imada).

DOUBLE FLIP OPENING

1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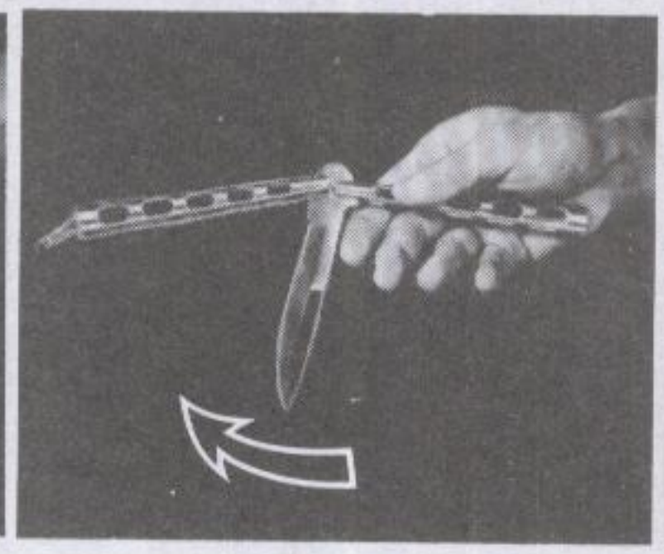
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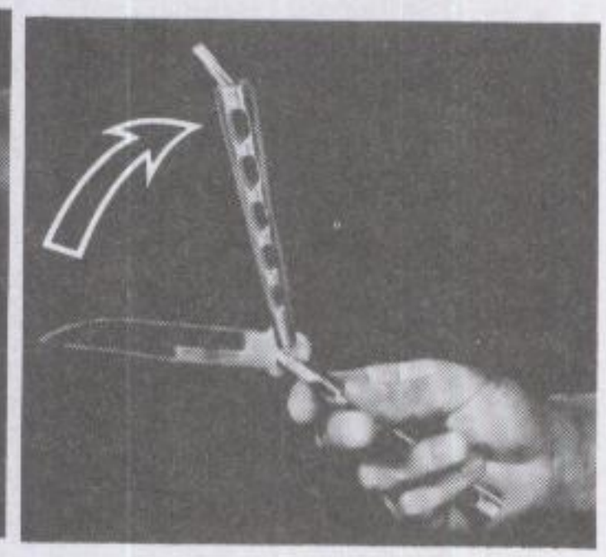
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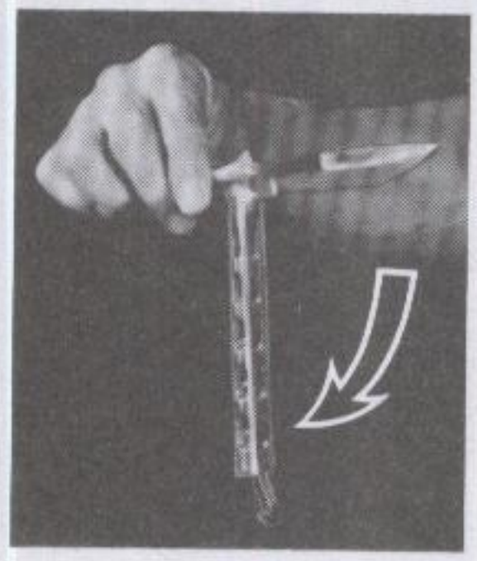
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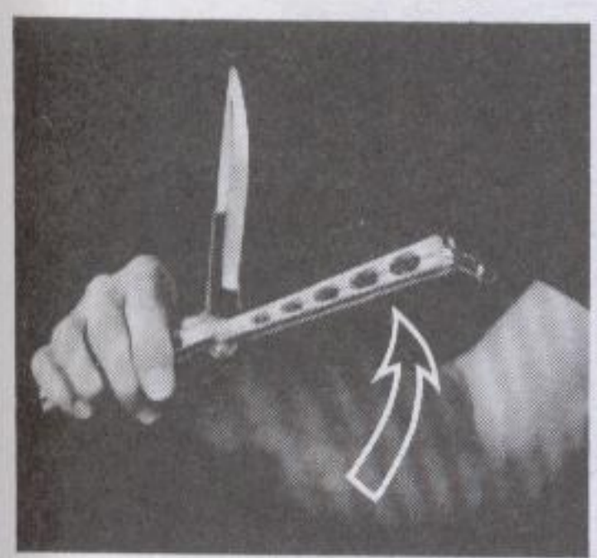
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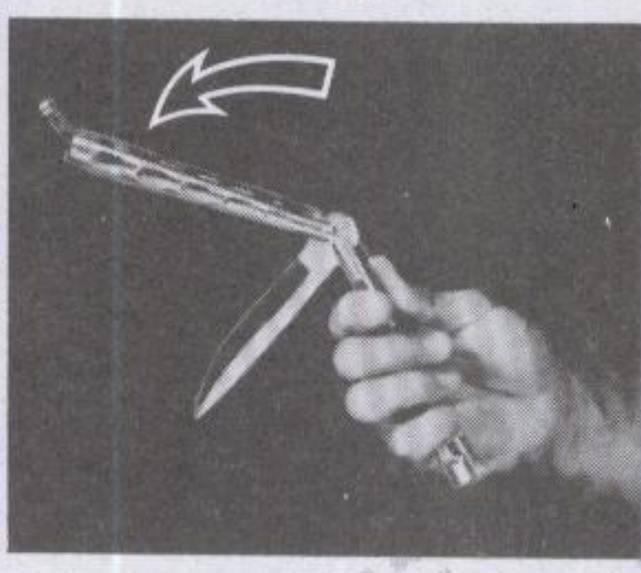
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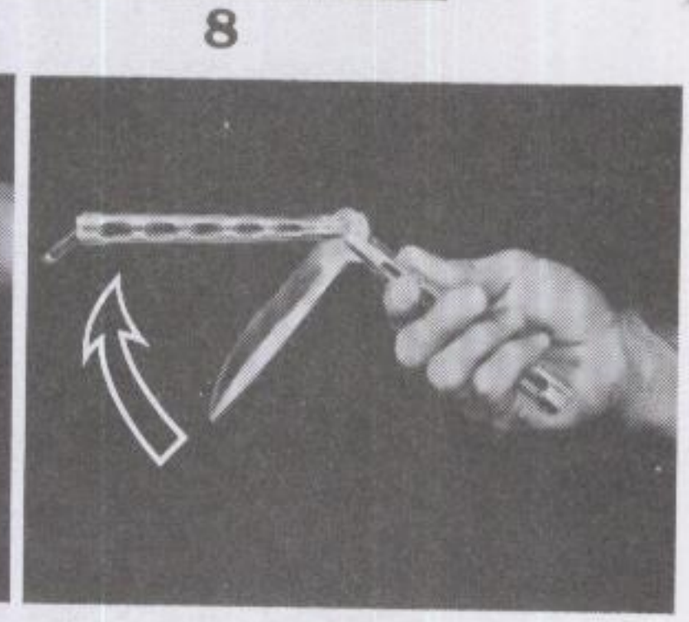
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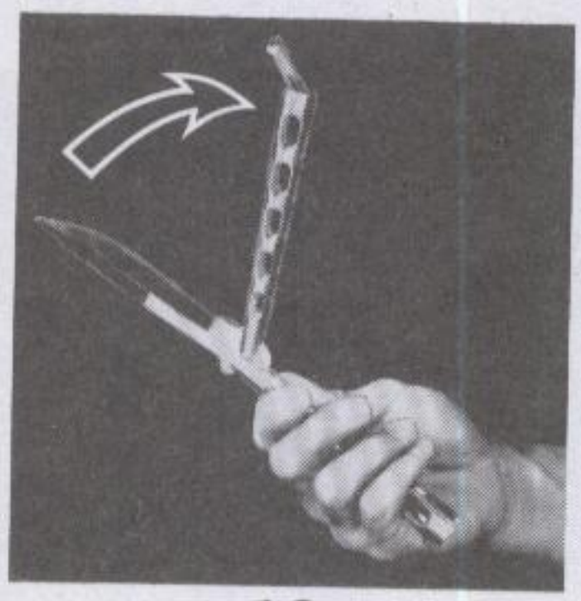
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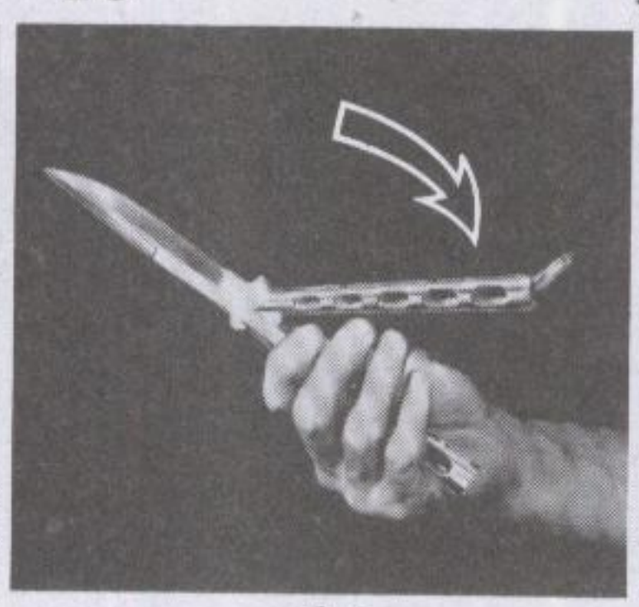
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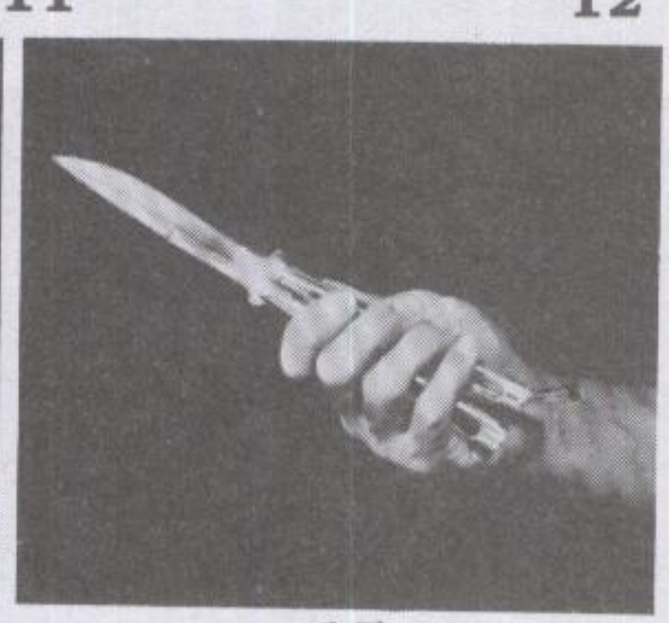
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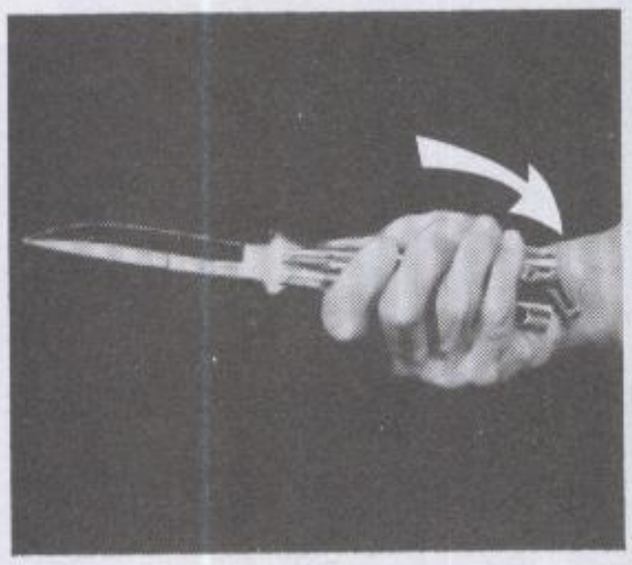
Retaining the "safe" handle, drop and swing the opposing handle up and over (1, 2 & 3). As the handle swings over the top, rotate the safe handle one-half turn, counterclockwise (4, 5, 6 & 7). With your palm down, reverse the direction of the handle by swinging it up and out (8, 9 & 10). Just before the back of the blade hits your knuckles, reverse the direction of the opposing handle and swing it up towards you (11, 12 & 13). Immediately open your fingers to catch the upcoming handle (14 & 15).

DOUBLE FLIP CLOSING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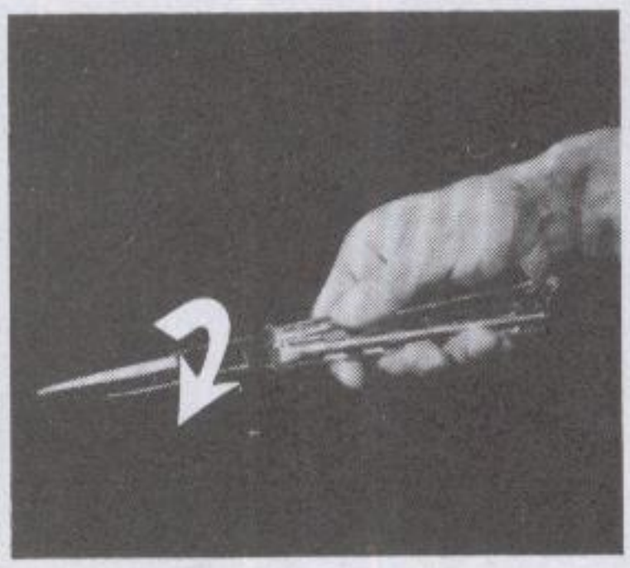
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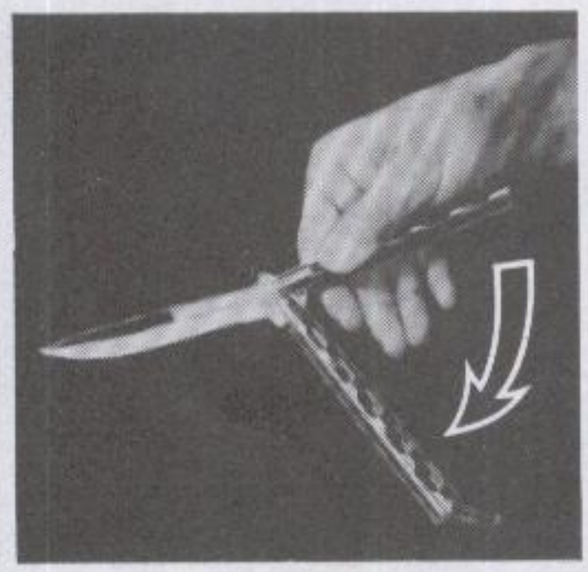
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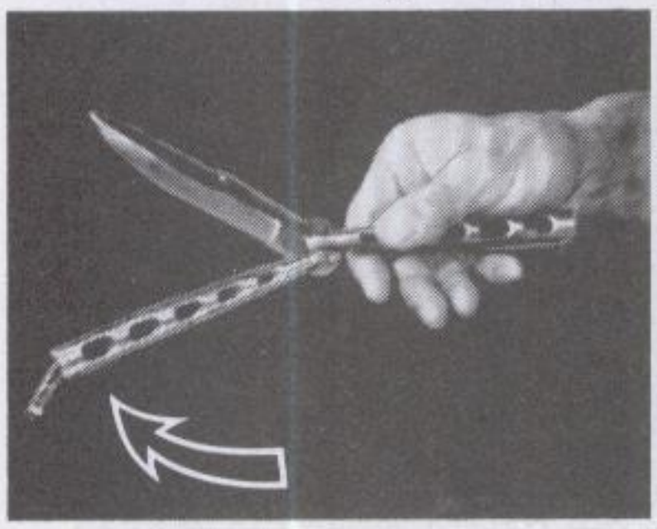
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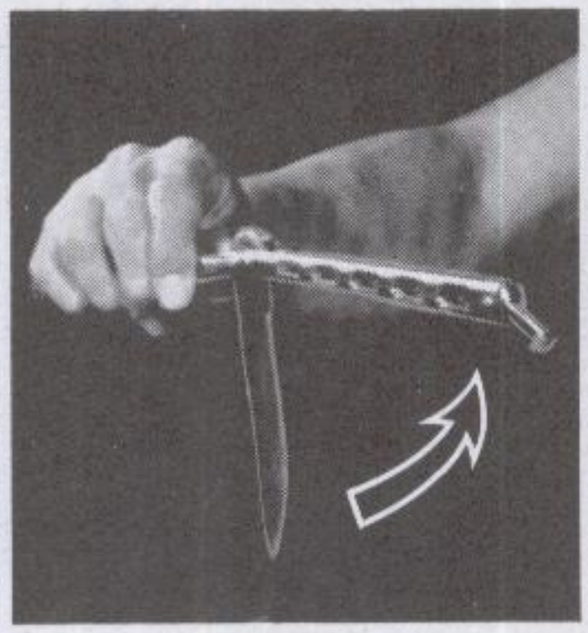
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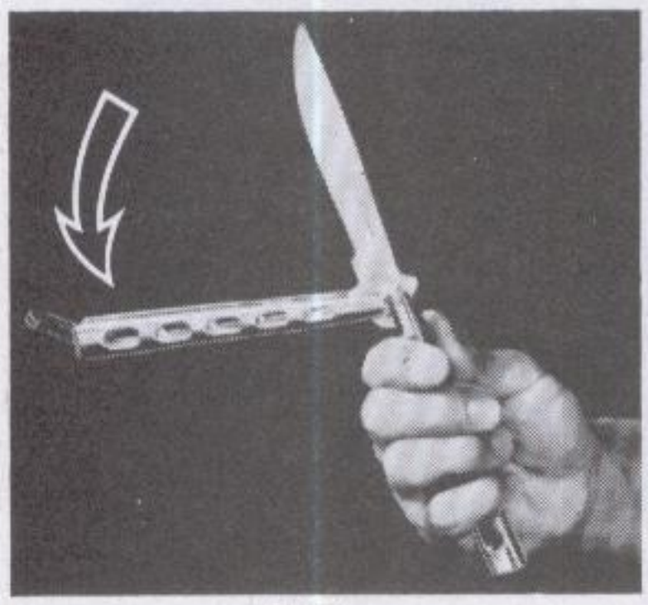
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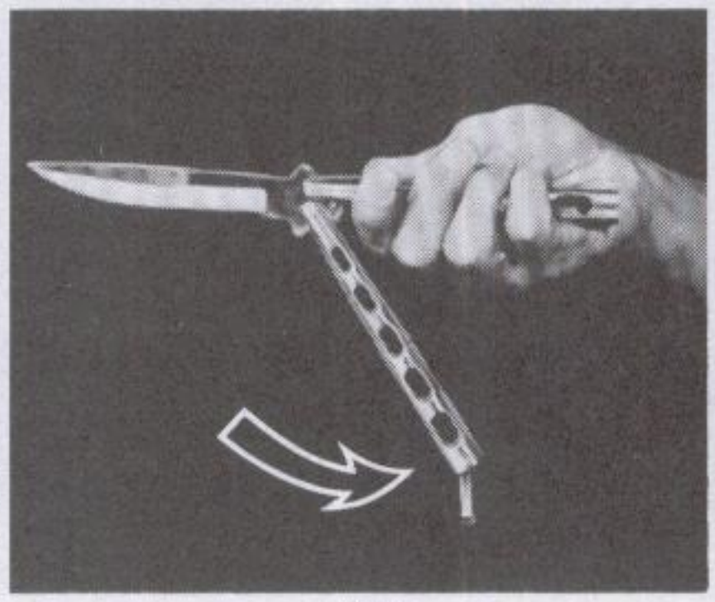
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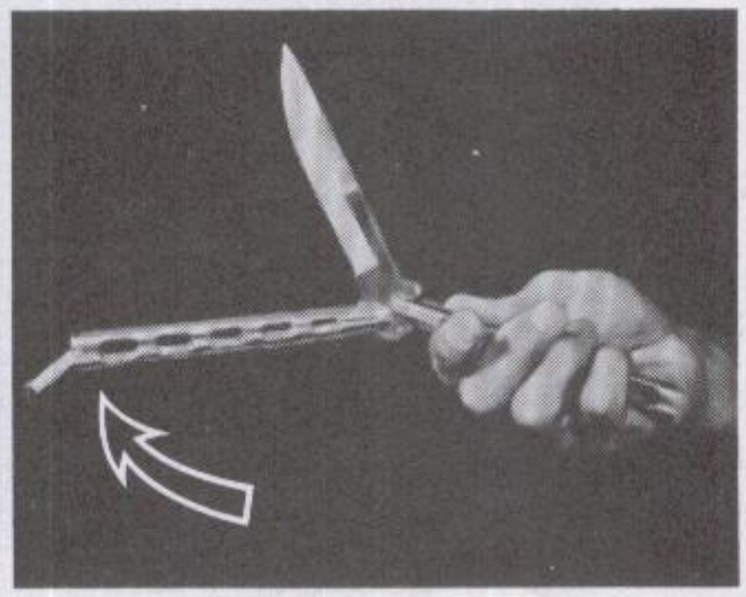
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Rotate your hand and knife to a palm-down/blade-down position (1 & 2). Drop and swing the lower handle up and over (3, 4 & 5). As the handle swings over the top, rotate the handle one-half turn, counter-clockwise (6, 7 & 8). With your palm down, reverse the direction of the handle, swinging it up and out (9, 10, 11 & 12). Just before the handle hits your knuckles, reverse the handle direction, swinging it up and in towards you (13 & 14). Open your fingers to receive the in-coming handle (15 & 16).

DOUBLE FLIP DOWN AND UP OPENING

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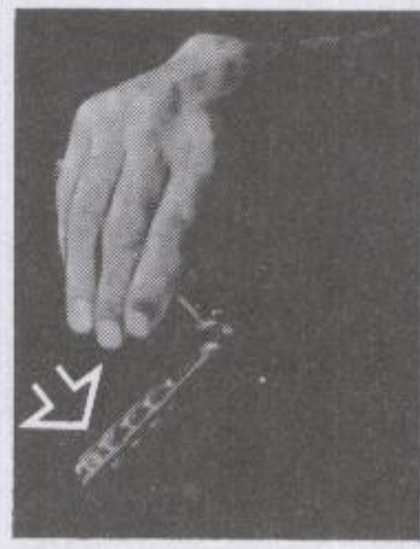
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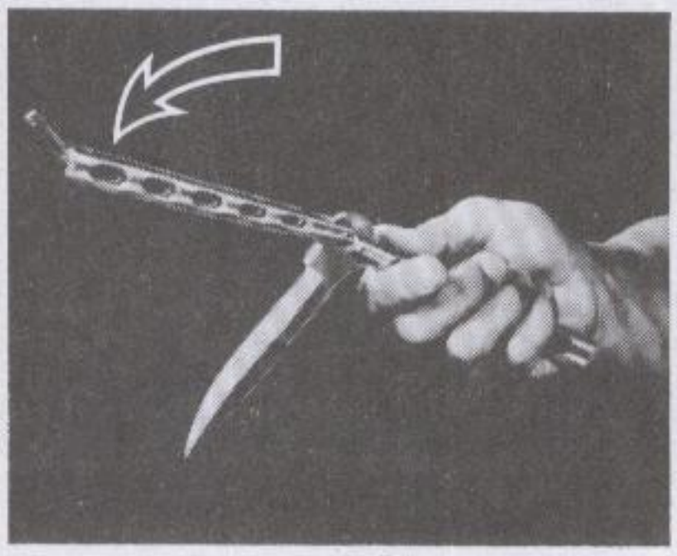
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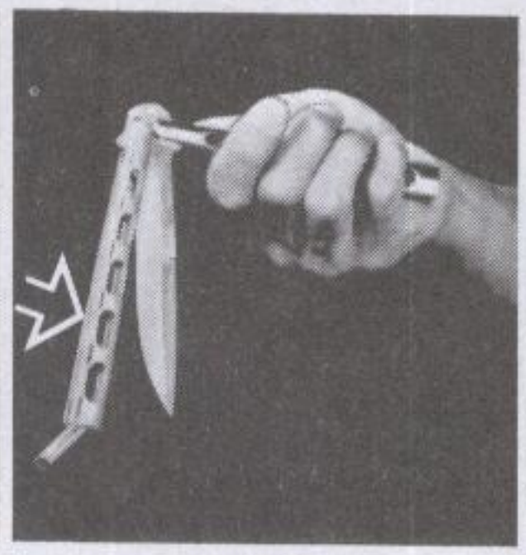
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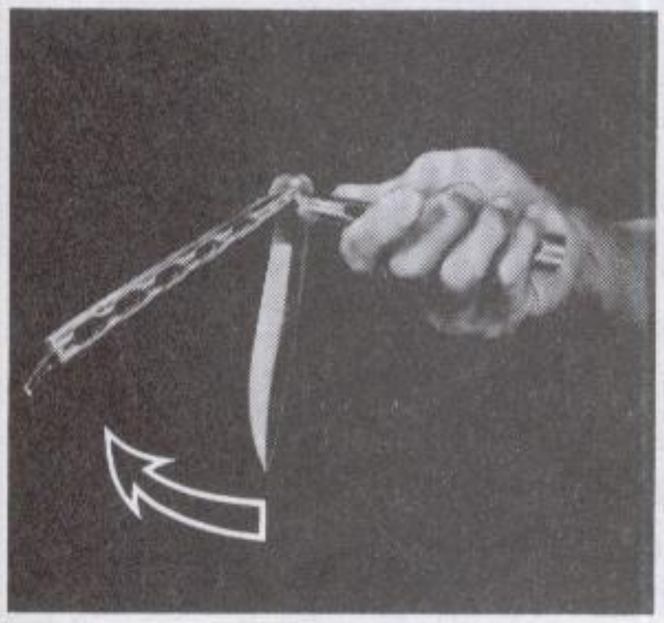
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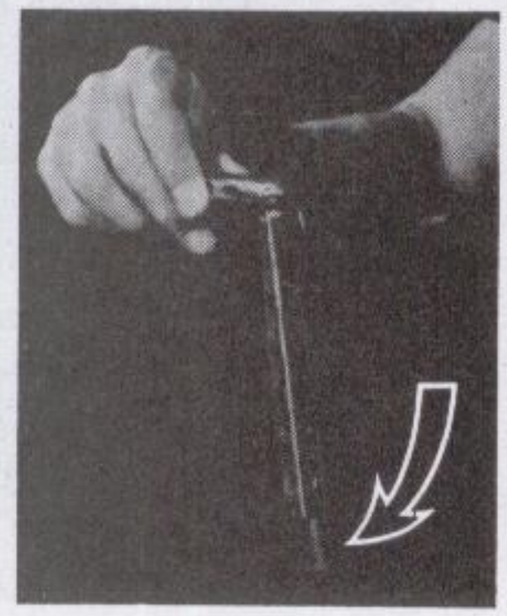
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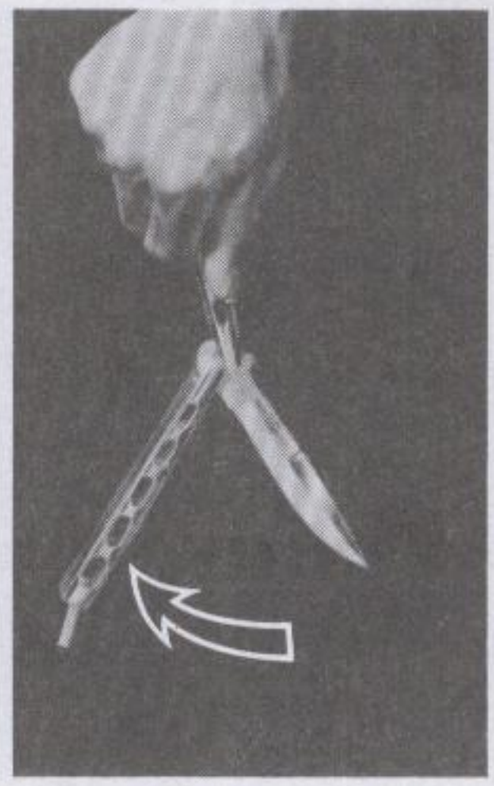

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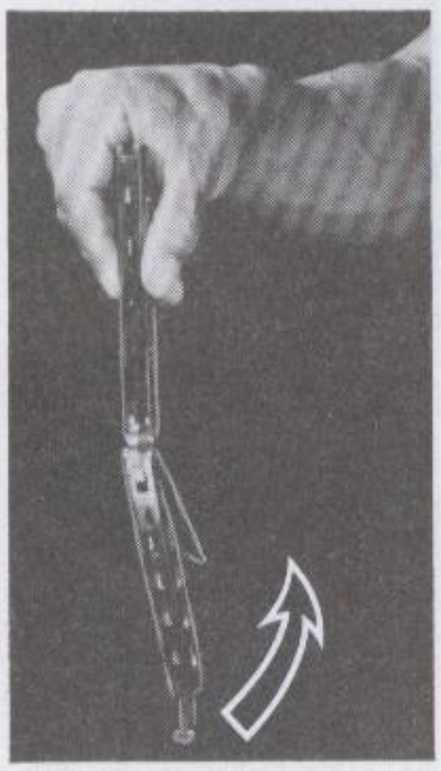

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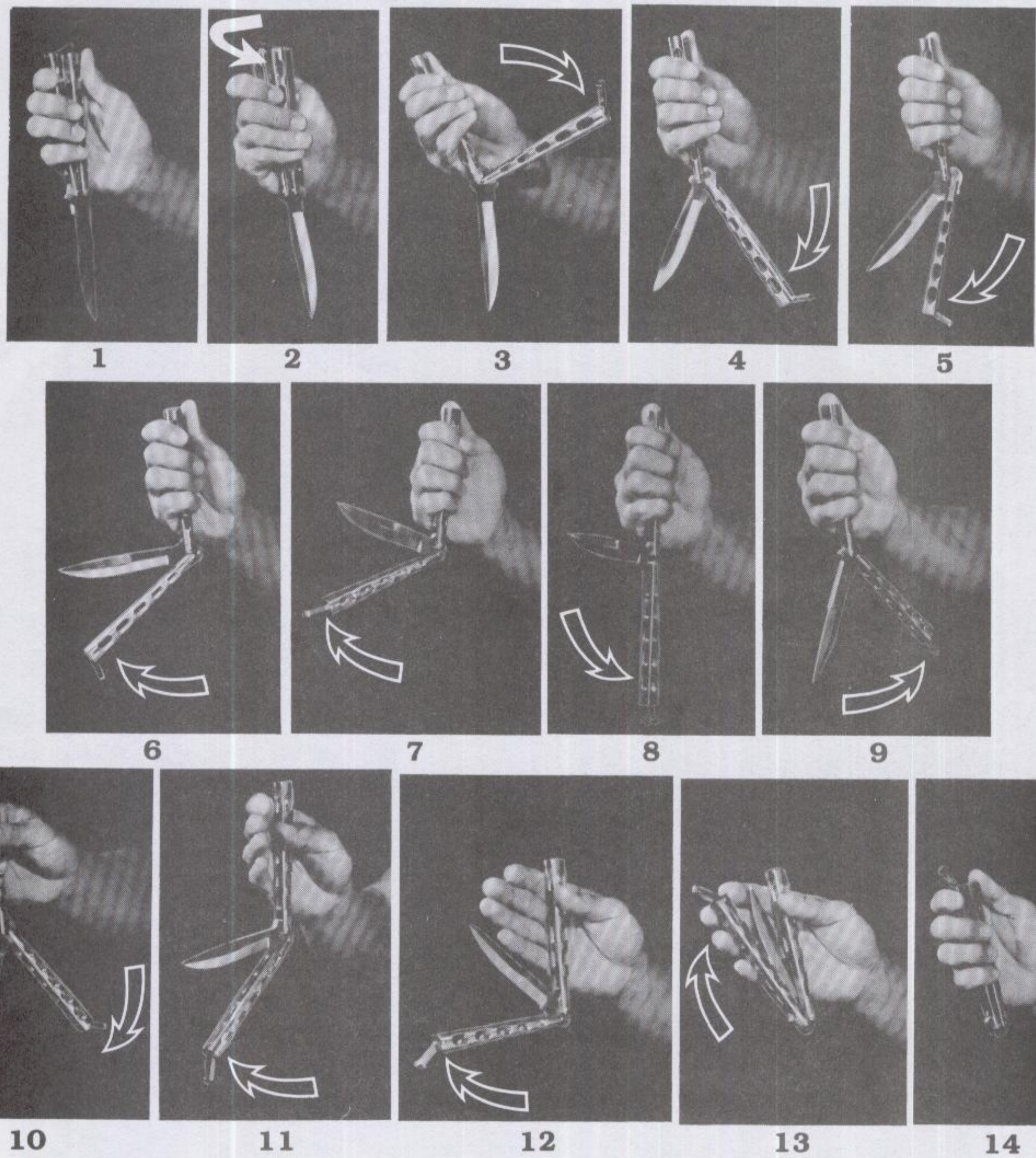
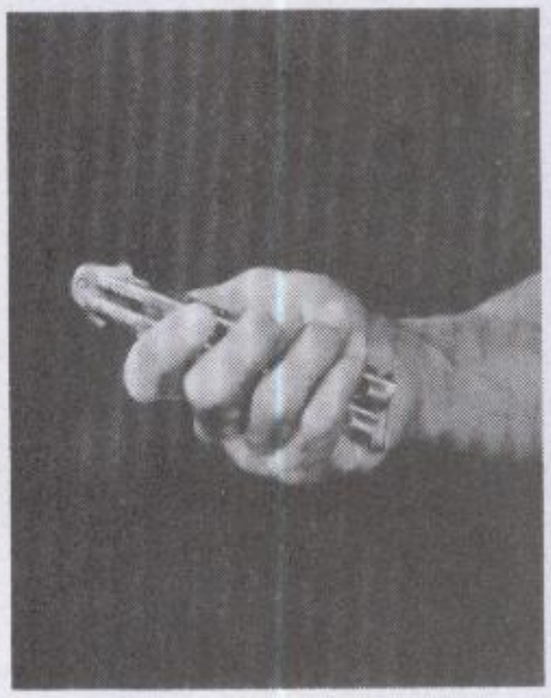
From a palm-up position (1), rotate your hand and knife 180°, to a palm-down position (2). Retain the "safe" handle and flip the opposing handle up and over away from you (3 & 4). When the handle has traveled about 270°, turn your hand counterclockwise (not rotating the knife) from a palm-up to a palm-down position (5, 6 & 7). With a palm-down grip, turn your palm and knife up and over (8, 9 & 10). Just before the back side of the blade hits your index finger, reverse the handle swing direction (11, 12, 13, 14 & 15). Let the handle continue its motion by turning your palm down (16) and turning the knife in towards you (17). Keeping your thumb on top of the open side of the safe handle, turn your wrist down (18), causing the opposing handle to flip down and out (19). Twist your wrist, counterclockwise, and rotate the safe handle one-quarter turn, counterclockwise (20). Change your grip by letting the safe handle slide down, while the opposing handle swings toward you (21). Hold the handle with your thumb and first two fingers (22). Start swinging the handle in the opposite direction out and up (23 & 24). Prepare to catch the handle in an ice-pick grip (25).

DROP AND TWIST CATCH CLOSING (outside to inside)



From an ice-pick grip, rotate the knife one-half turn, counterclockwise, to a blade-in position (1 & 2). Retain the "safe" handle with your fingers and thumb. Release and swing the opposing handle down and out (3, 4, 5 & 6). Just before the back side of the blade hits your knuckles (7), swing the handle down in the opposite direction (8 & 9). Rotate the safe handle one-quarter turn, counterclockwise, change direction to swing the opposing handle up (10 & 11). Change to a thumb and palm grip to accept the up-swinging handle (12, 13 & 14).

SINGLE FLIP, FINGER TWIRL AND DOUBLE FLIP OPENING



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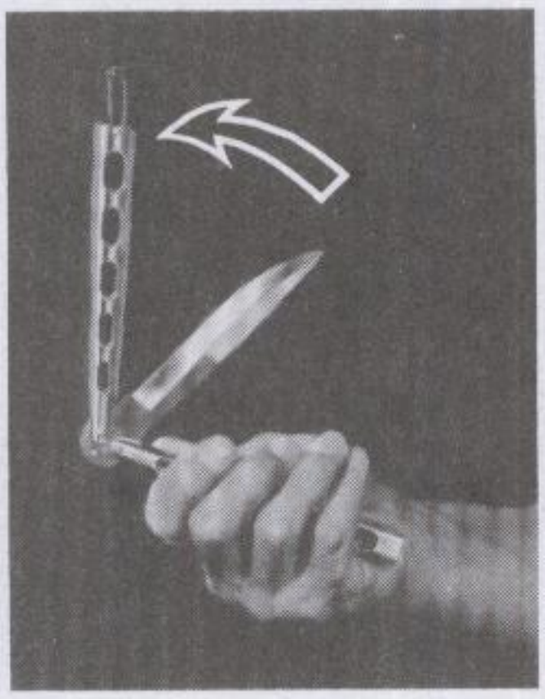

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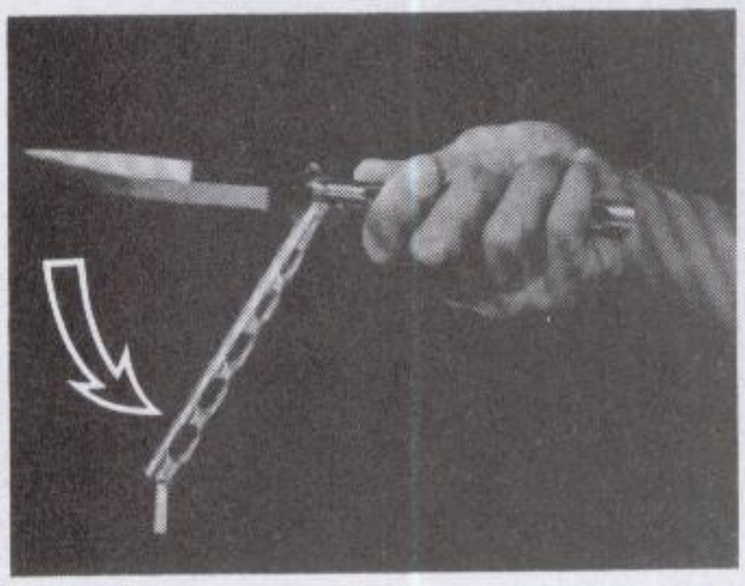

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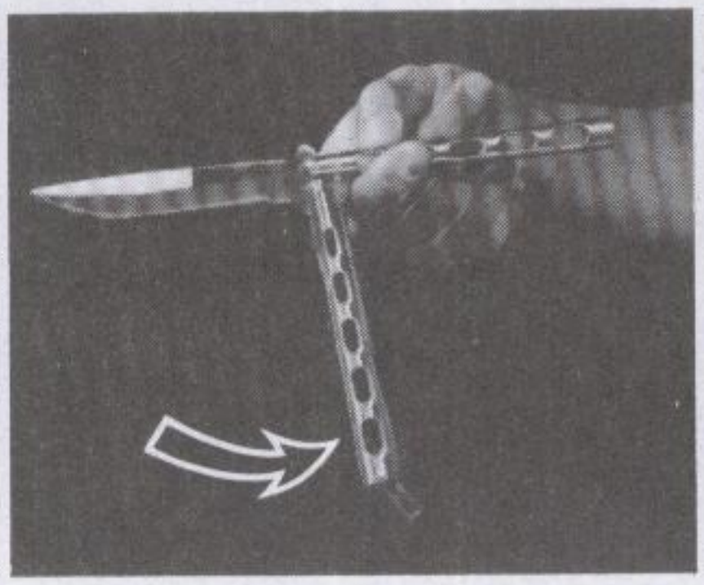

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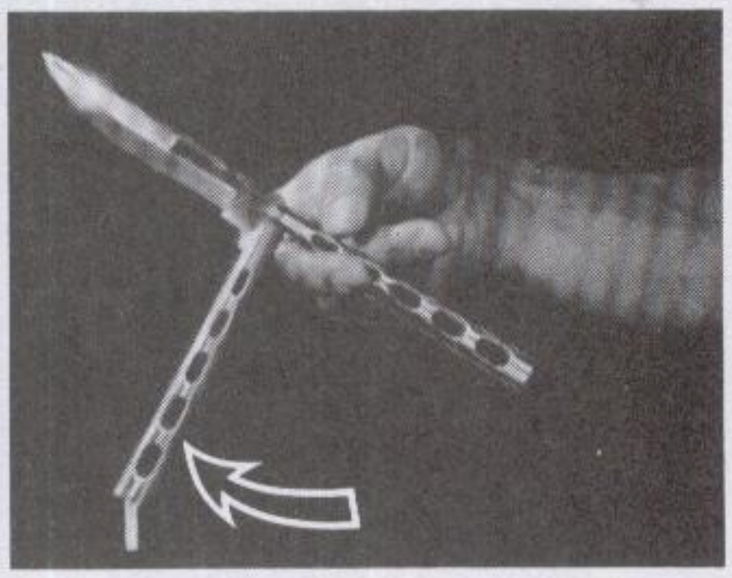

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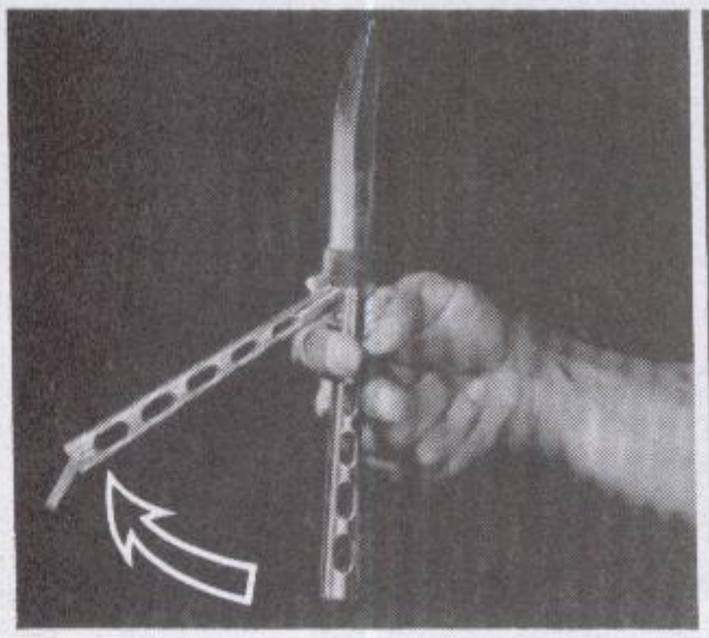

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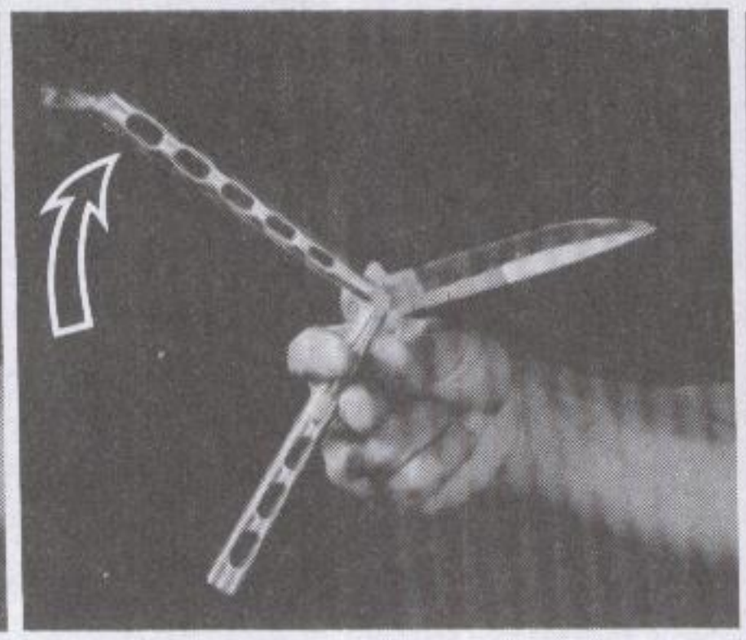

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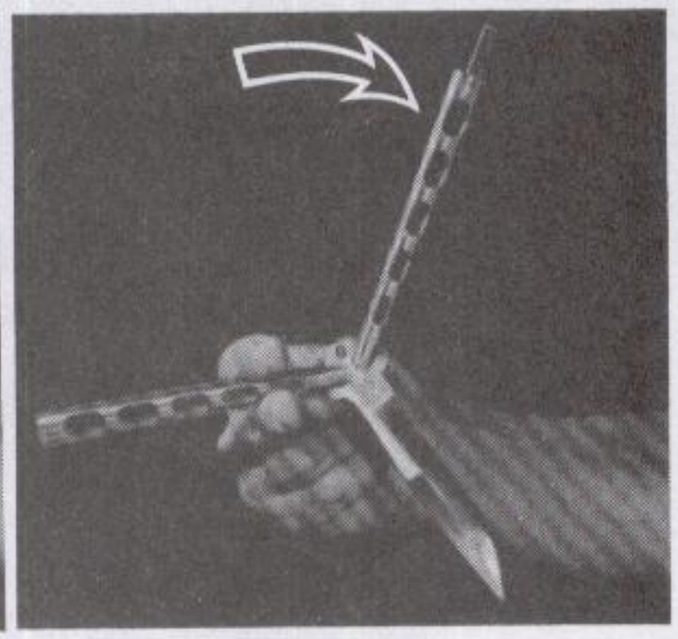

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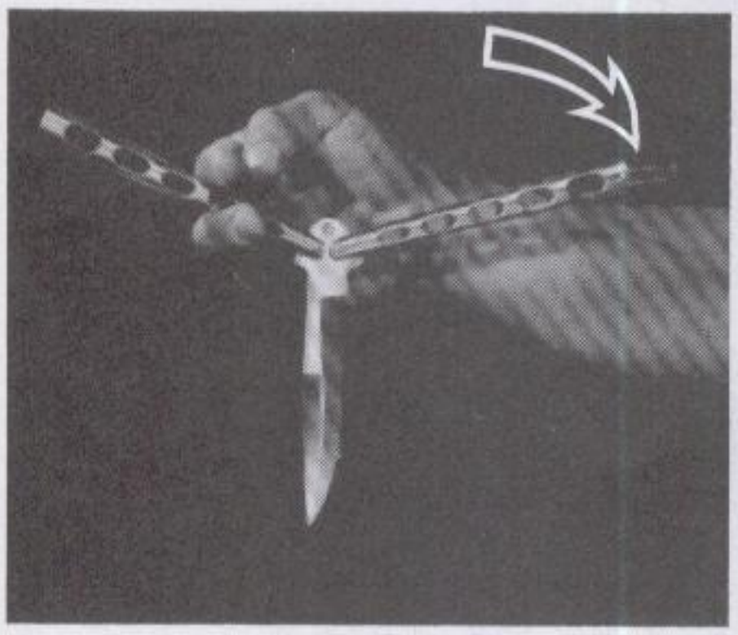

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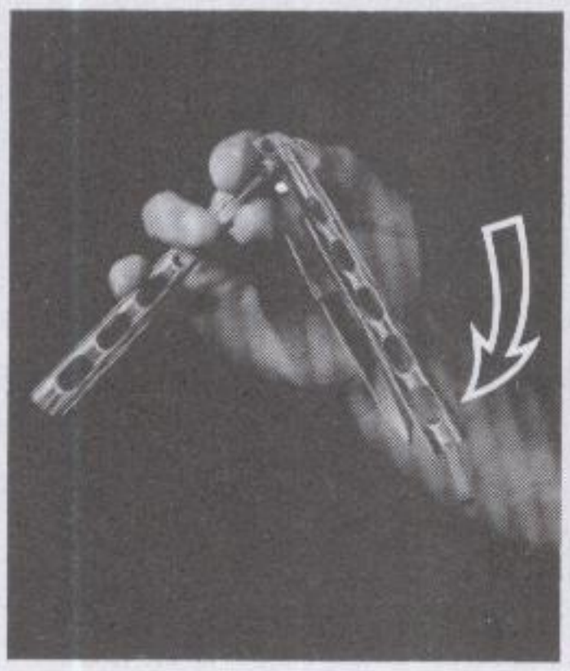

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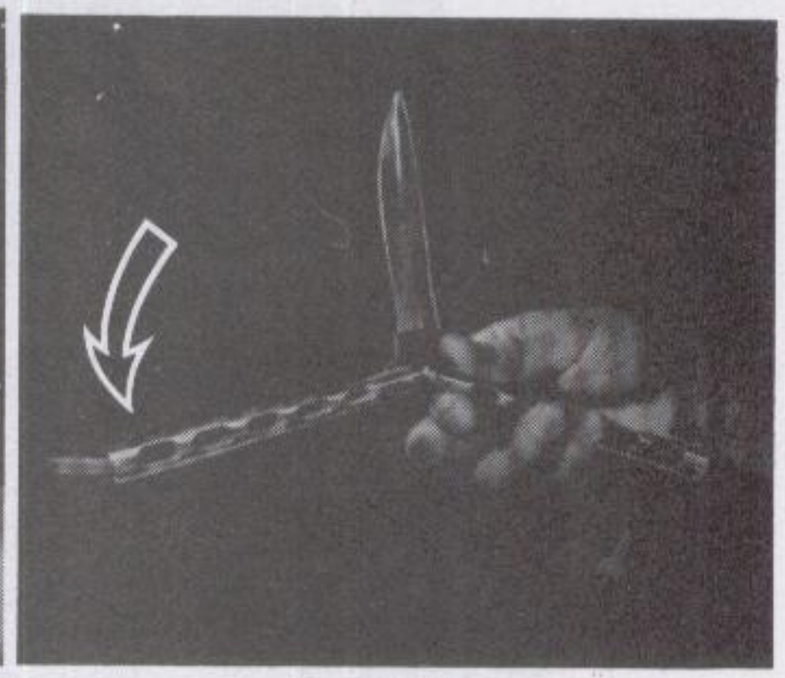

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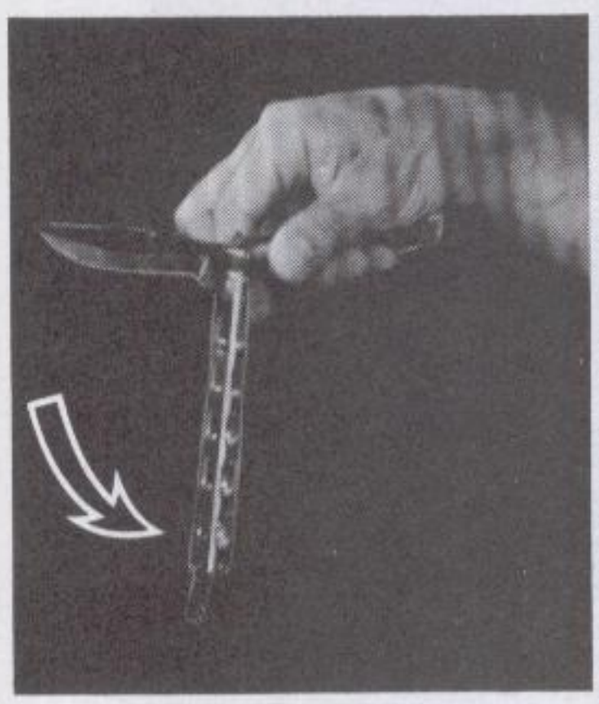

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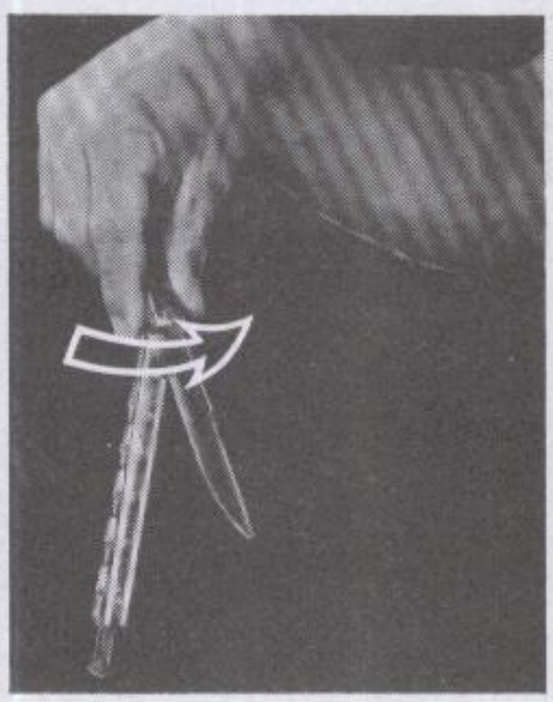

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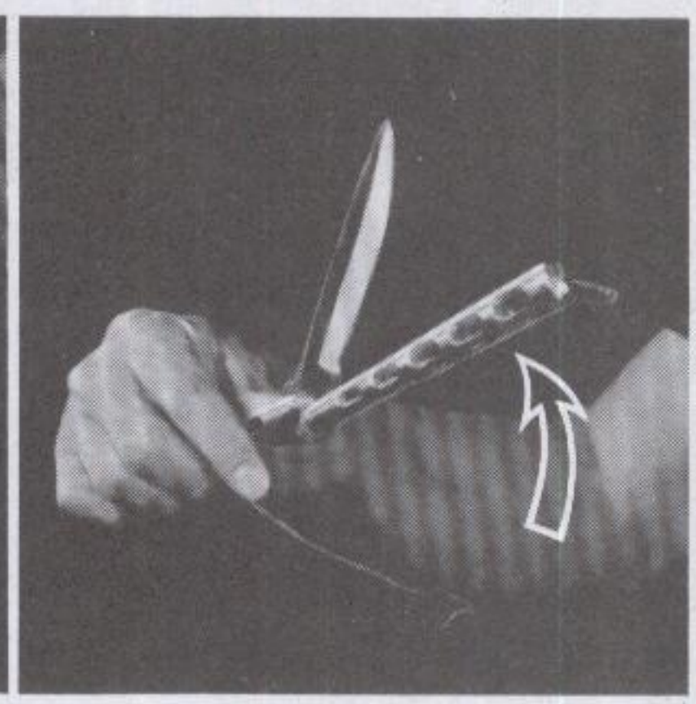

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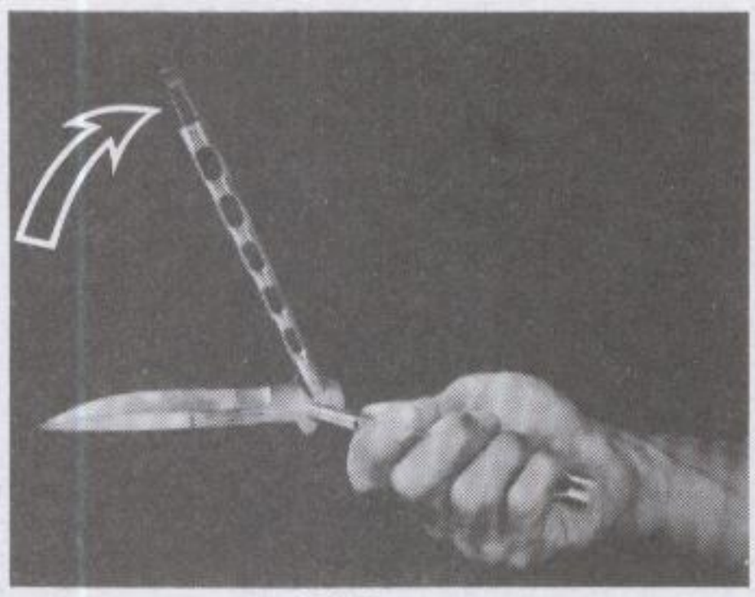

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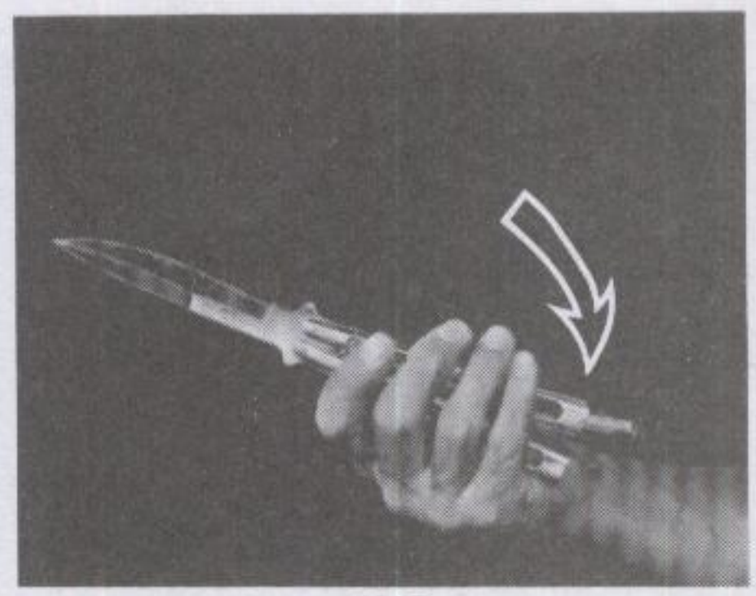


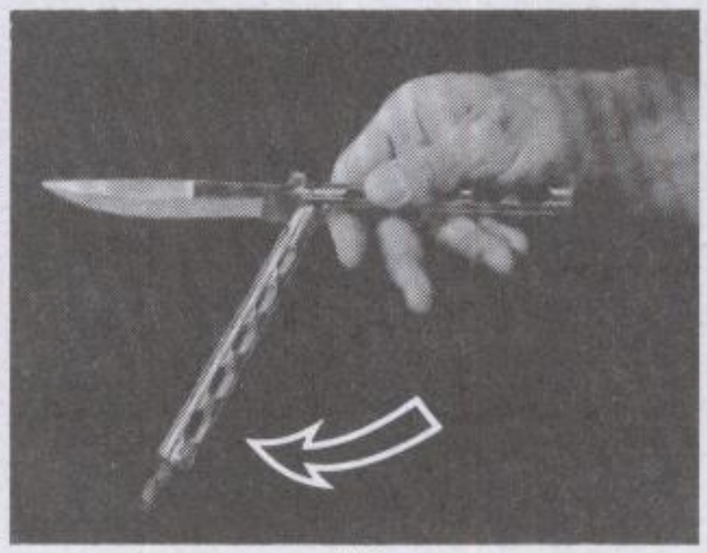
26

Retaining the "safe" handle, flip the opposing handle up and over away from you (1, 2, 3 & 4). When the handle has traveled about 270°, change your grip by placing your middle finger on top of the safe handle (5). Reverse the direction of the handle travel by finger twirling the safe handle with your index and middle fingers (6 & 7), causing the opposing handle to swing up and in (8, 9 & 10). Make sure to keep your other fingers out of the way. As the safe handle approaches a vertical position, place your third finger next to your index finger on the back side of the handle (11). Finger twirl with your middle and third finger, moving your index finger out of the way to continue the swing of the opposing handle up and in a second time (12, 13 & 14). Place your index finger next to your third finger on the back side of the handle (15). Note the middle finger between the safe handle and the safe side of the blade.

Swing the opposing handle up and over away from your body. Simultaneously place your middle finger on the back side of the safe handle to finish the opening with a double flip down opening (17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25 & 26).

QUICK CLOSING

1



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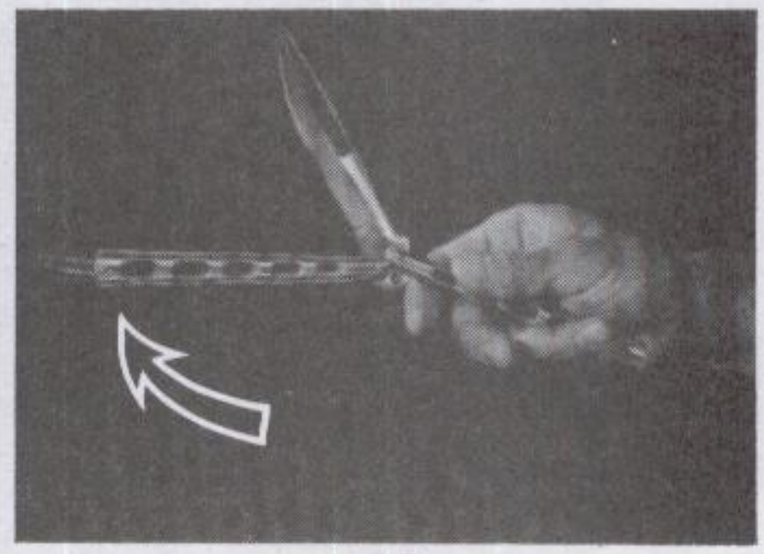

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From a palm-down position (1), drop and flip the lower handle up and over towards you (2 & 3). Simultaneously alter your grip to catch the up-coming blade and handle (4, 5 & 6).

SINGLE FLIP, FINGER TWIRL, DROP AND CATCH OPENING

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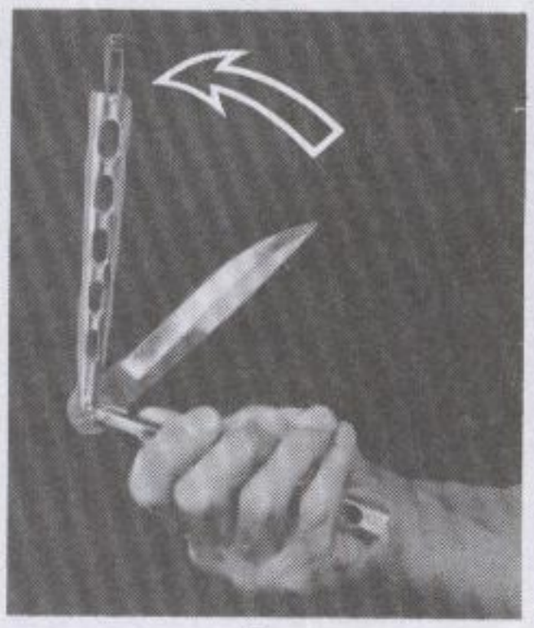

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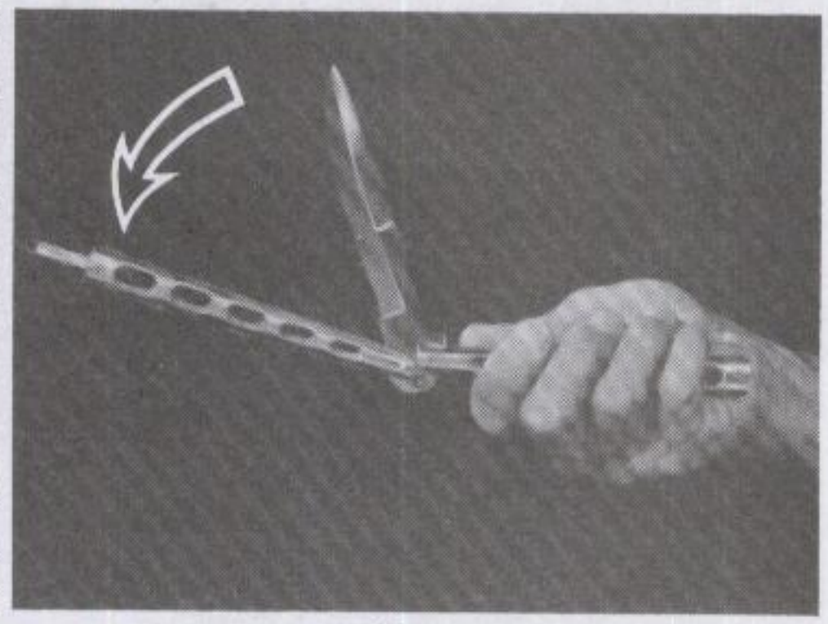

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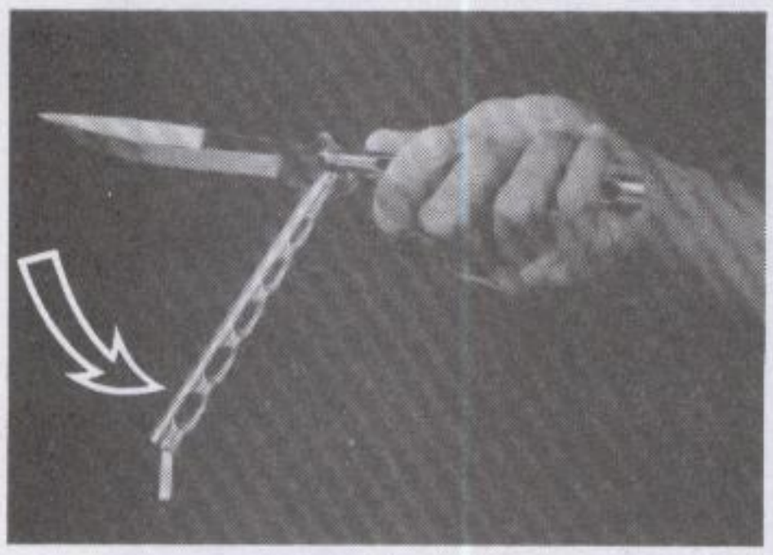

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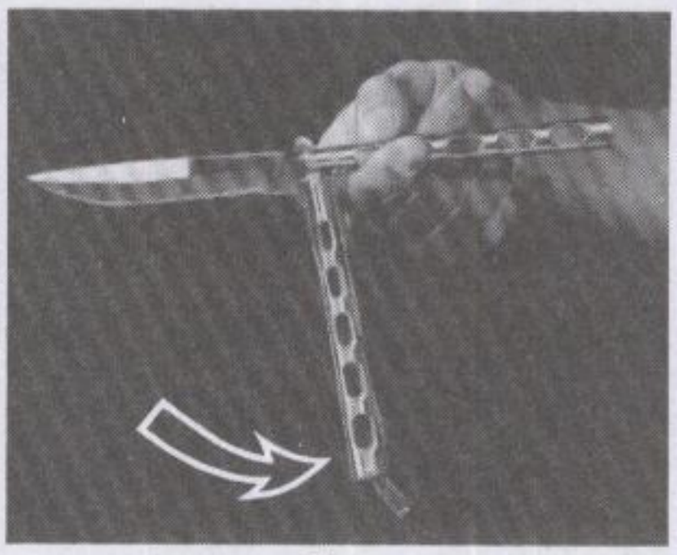

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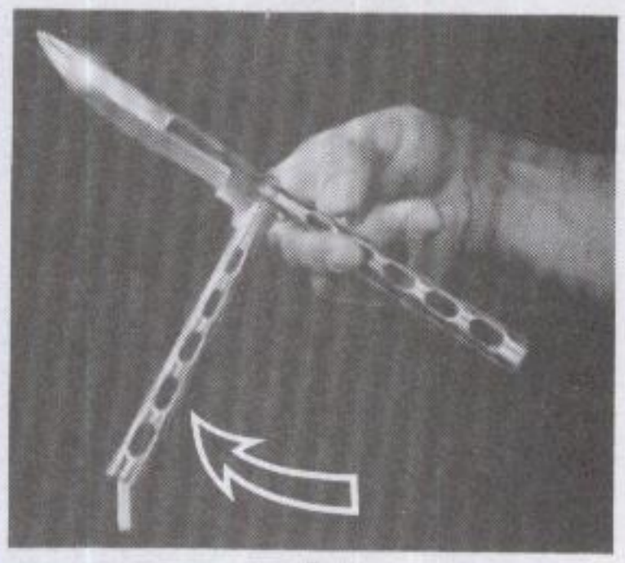

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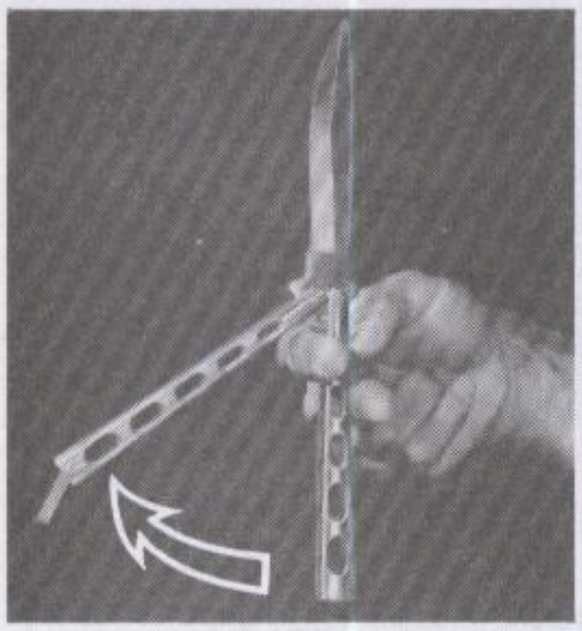

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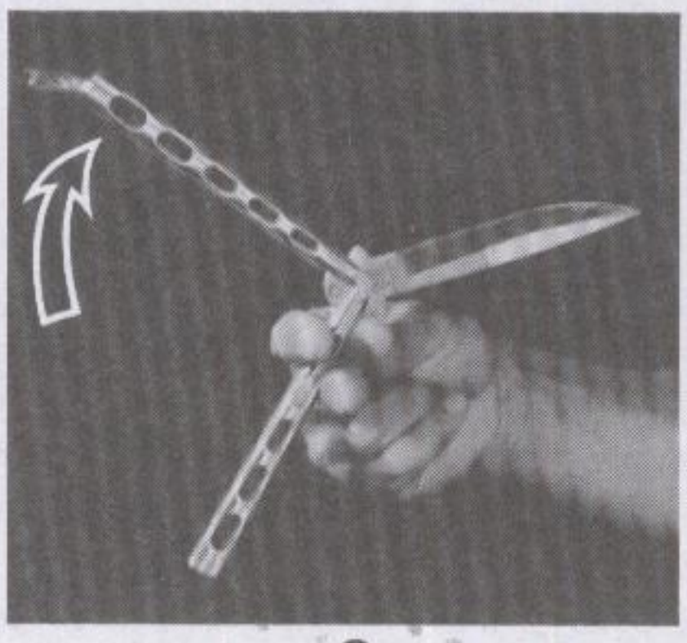

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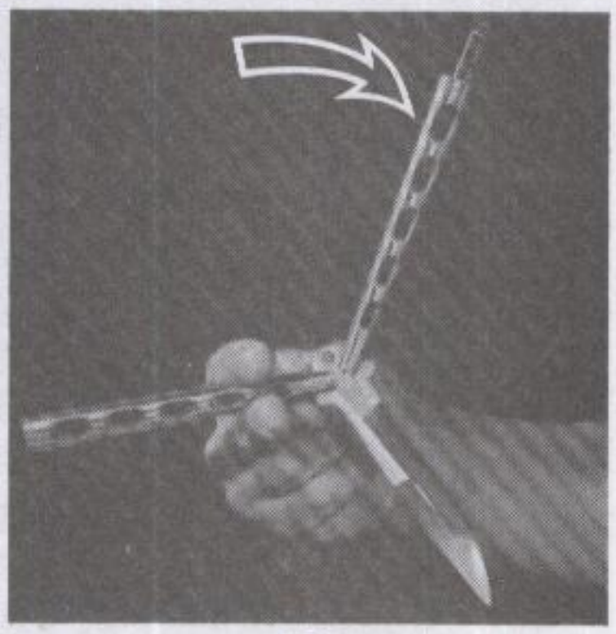

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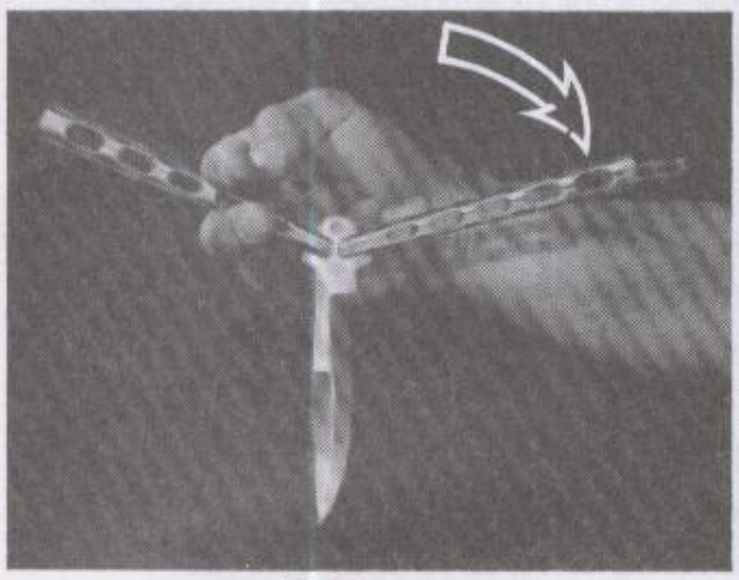

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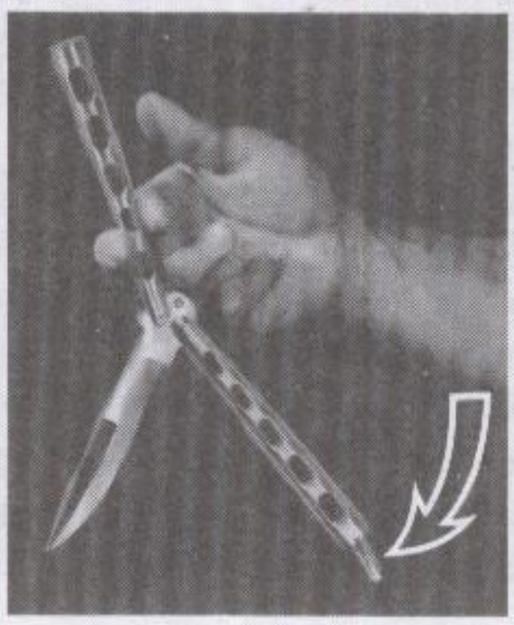

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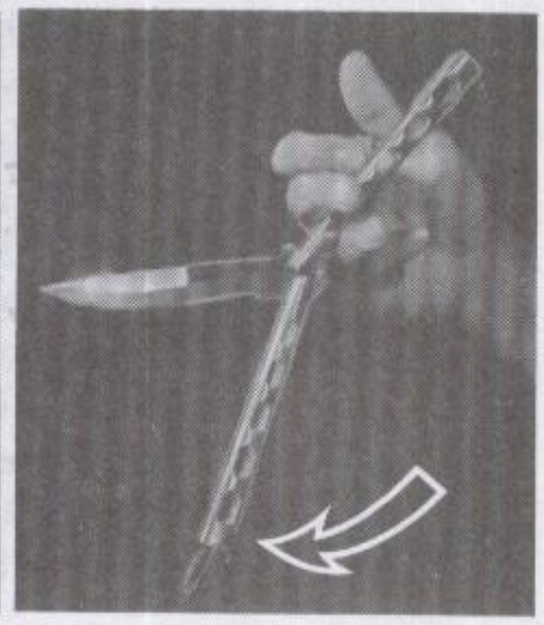

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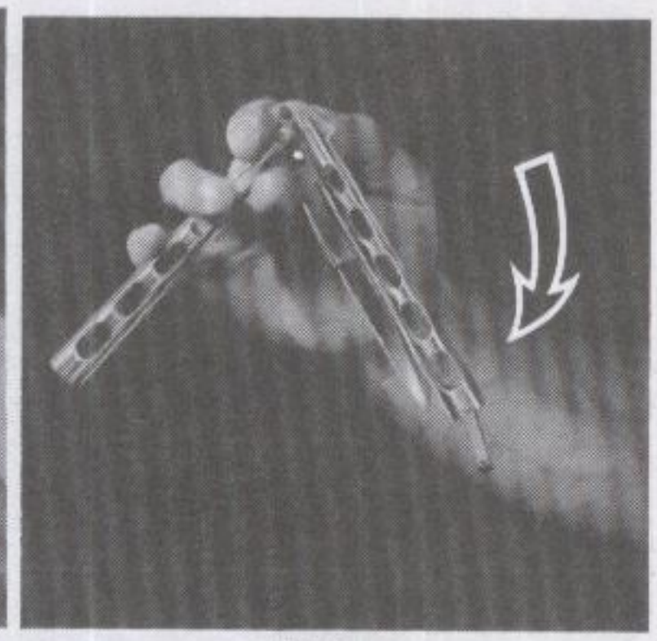

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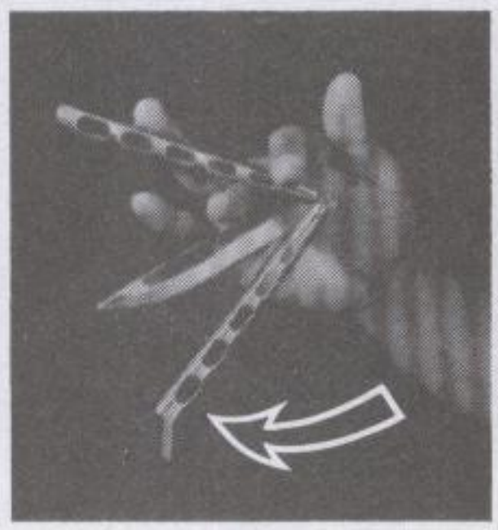

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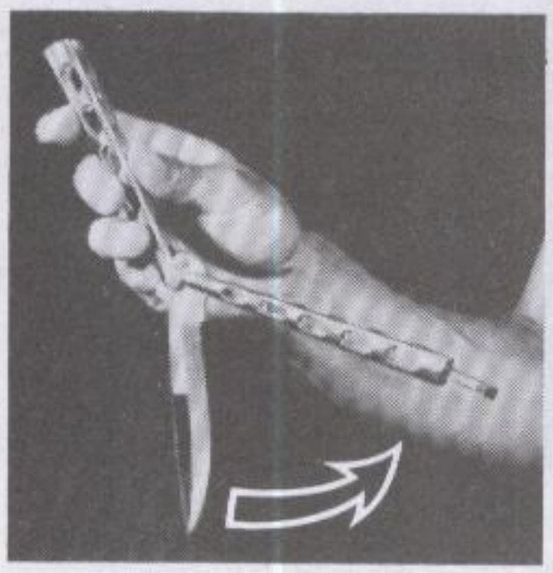

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Retaining the "safe" handle, flip the opposing handle up and over away from you (1, 2, 3 & 4). When the handle has traveled about 270°, change your grip by placing your middle finger on top of the safe handle (5). Reverse the direction of the handle travel by finger twirling the safe handle with your index and middle fingers (6 & 7), causing the opposing handle to swing up and in (8, 9 & 10). Make sure to keep your other fingers out of the way. As the safe handle approaches a vertical position, place your third finger next to your index finger on the back side of the handle (11). Finger twirl with your middle and third finger, moving your index finger out of the way to continue the swing of the opposing handle up and in a second time (12, 13 & 14). Place your index finger next to your third finger on the back side of the handle (15). Note the middle finger between the safe handle and the safe side of the blade.

Continue twirling the safe handle by using your index and middle finger. Move your third finger out of the way (16). Place your thumb on the back of the safe handle and apply pressure to continue the rotation and for control. Simultaneously, pull your index finger out and place it next to the middle finger on the open side of the safe handle (17). Reverse the direction of the opposing handle by swinging the opposing handle around and up (18 & 19). Move your thumb out of the way to accept the up-coming handle (20, 21 & 22).

DROP AND CATCH CLOSING

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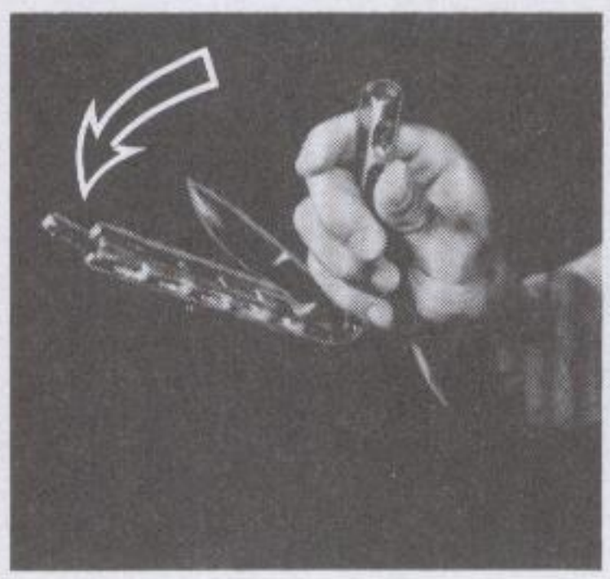

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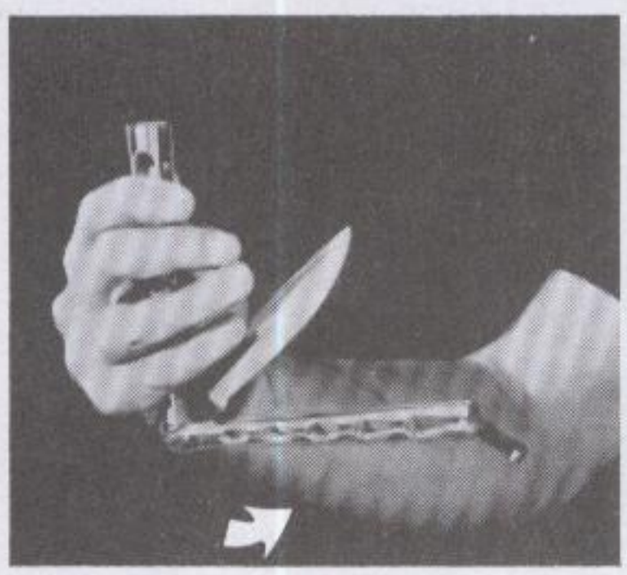

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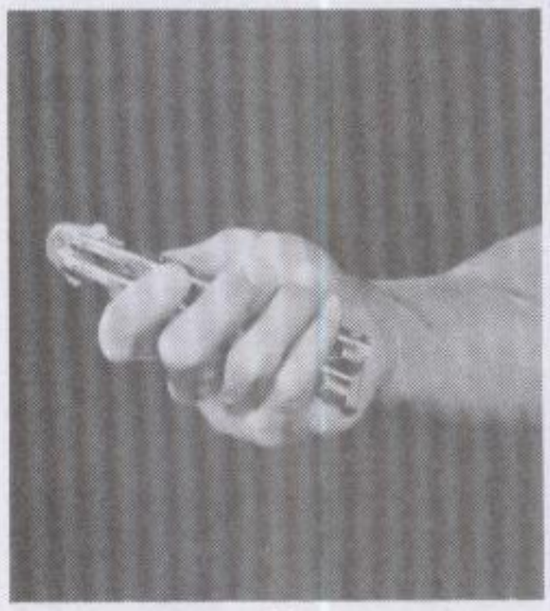
With your fingers gripping the "safe" handle, release and swing the opposing handle down and out (1, 2 & 3). Turn your hand counterclockwise so that your thumb is facing down, to allow the opposing handle to travel around until the safe side of the blade hits the backside of your hand (4 & 5). Reverse the direction, simultaneously rotating your grip on the safe handle one-half turn, counterclockwise with your thumb (6, 7 & 8). The opposing handle is now swinging up towards your body, move your fingers out of the way to catch the knife in a closed position (9, 10 & 11).

SINGLE FLIP, FINGER TWIRL, AND PROPELLER OPENING



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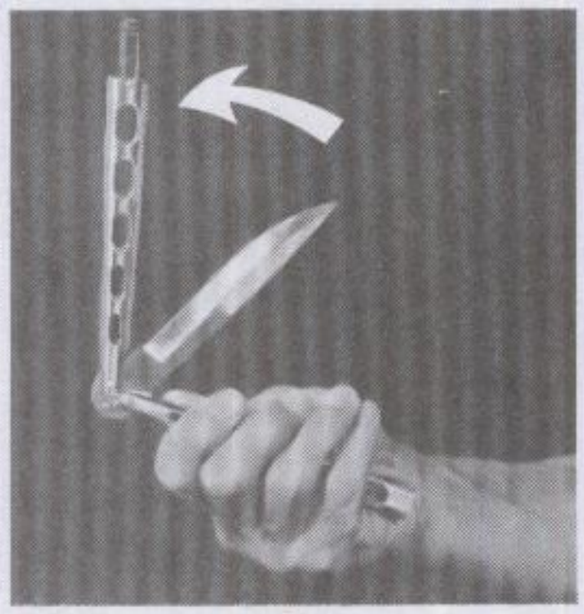

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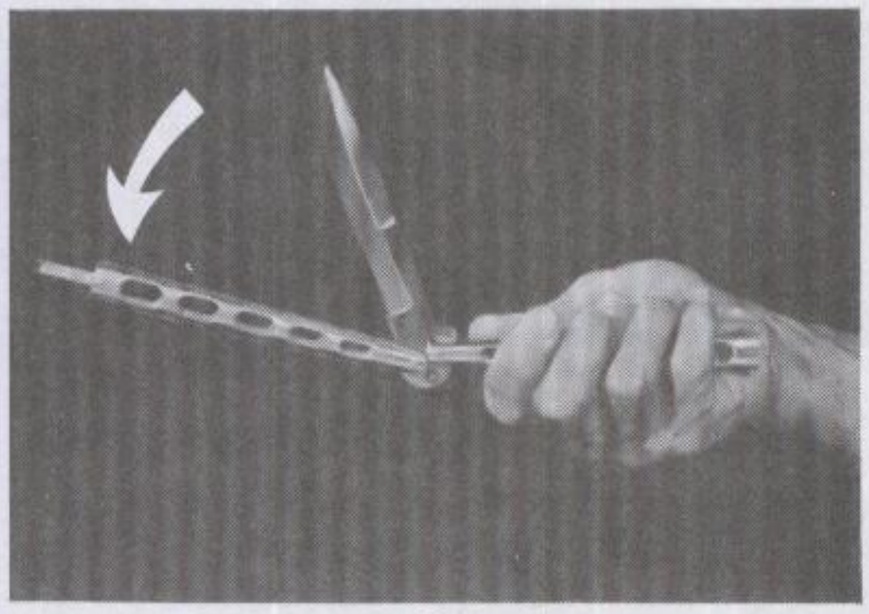

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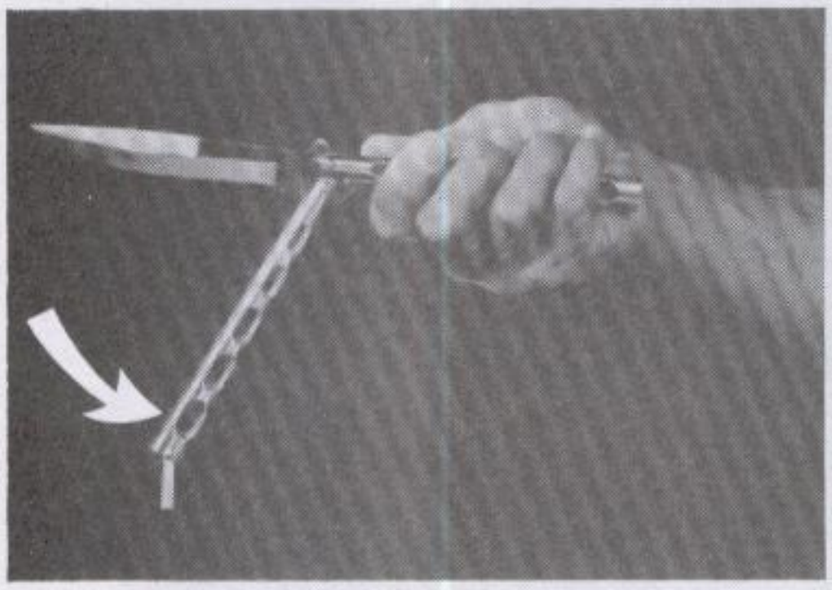

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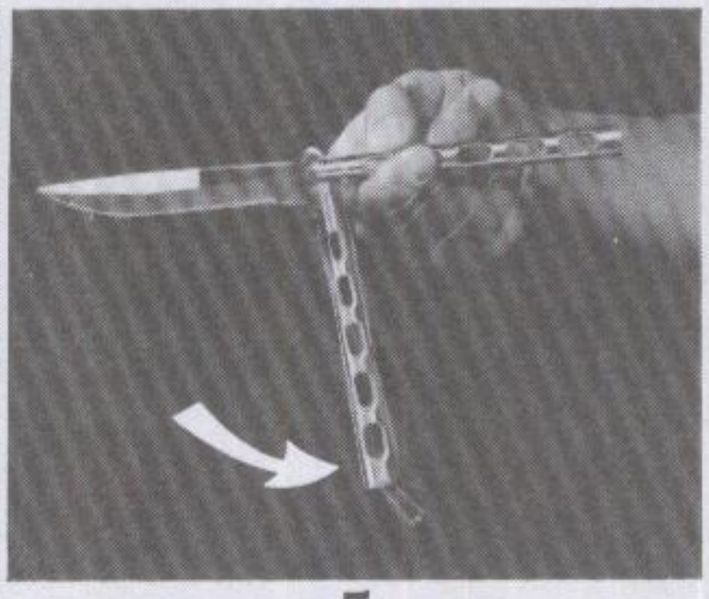

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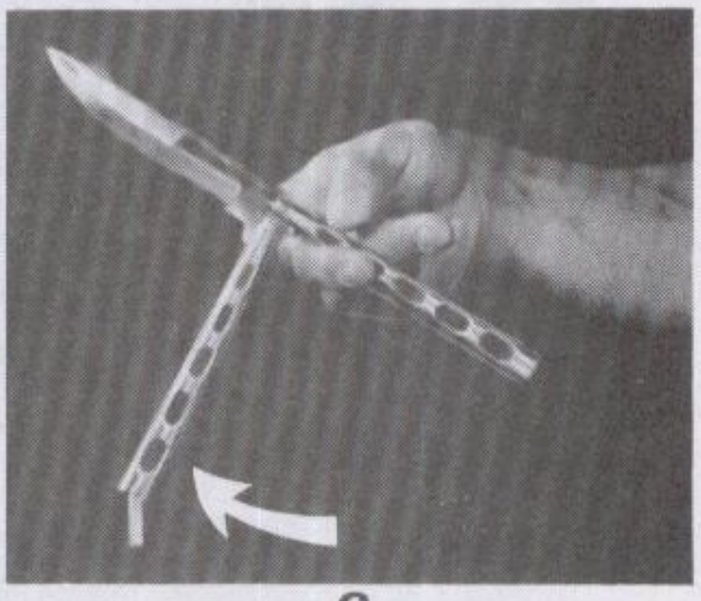

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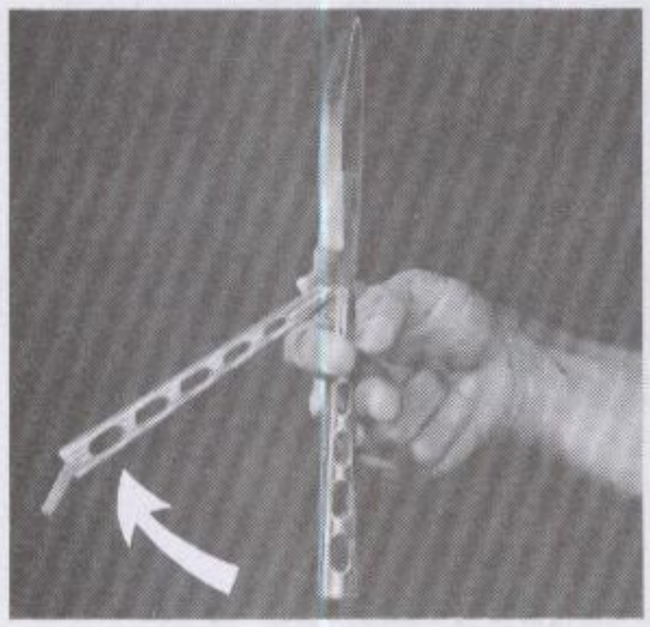

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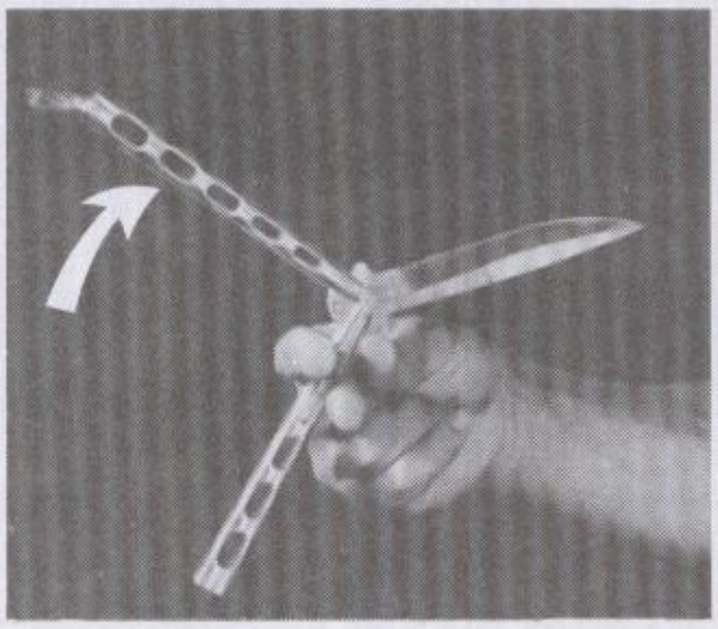

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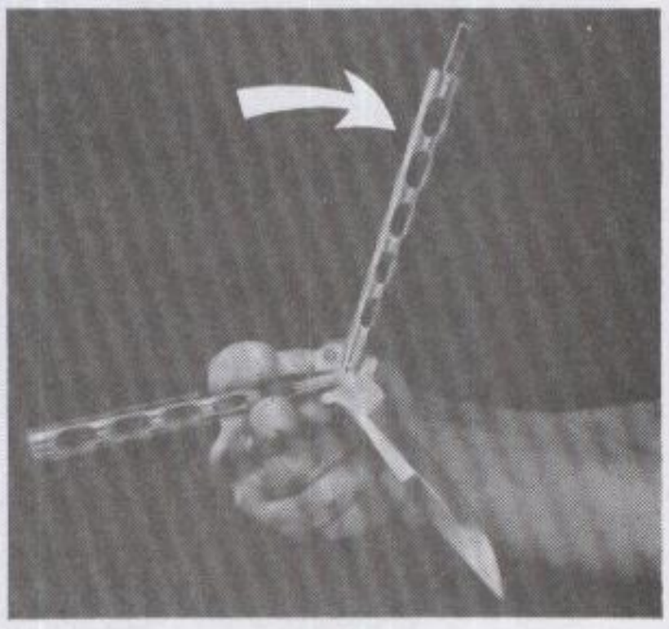

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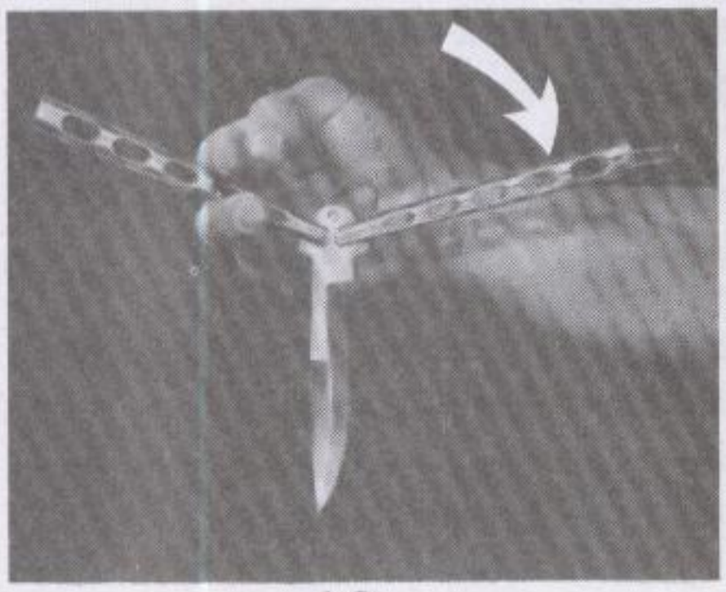

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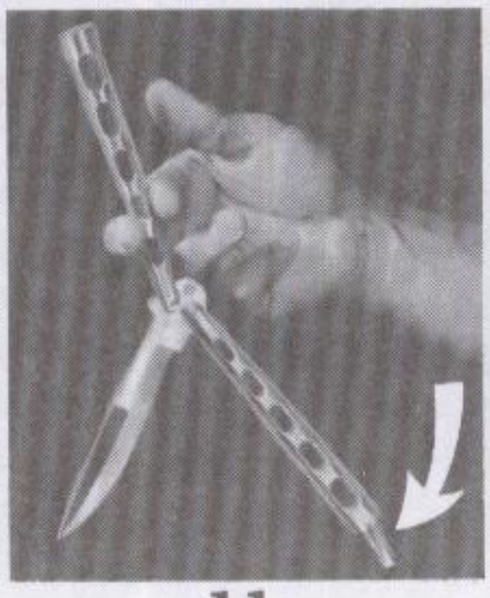

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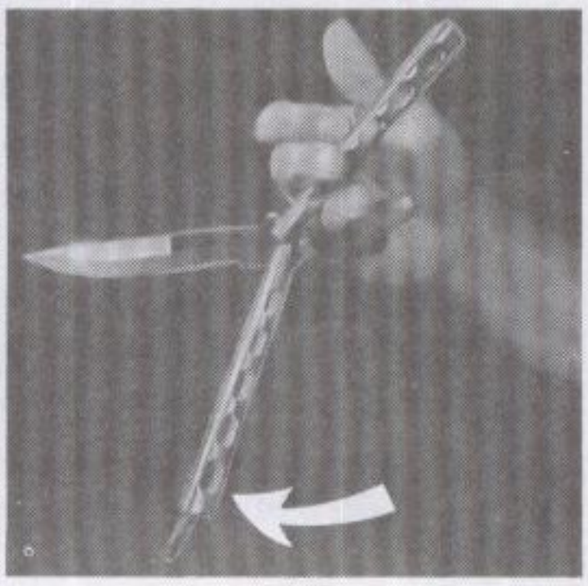

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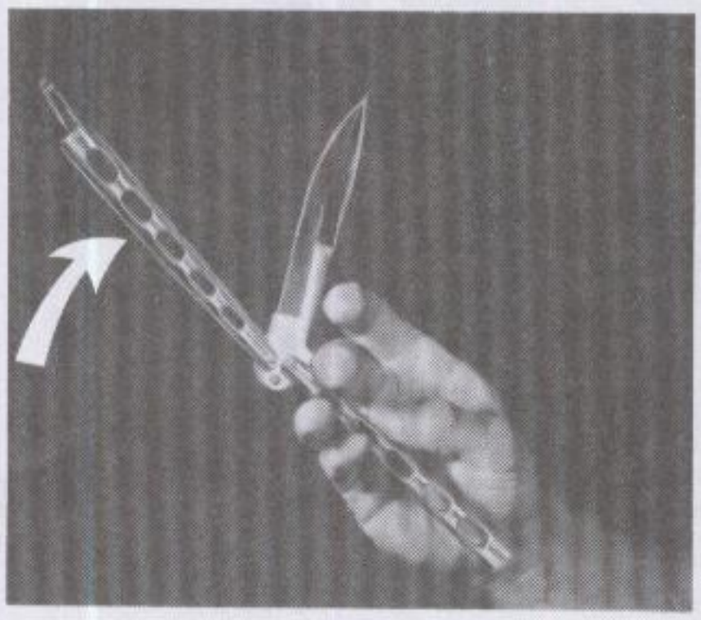

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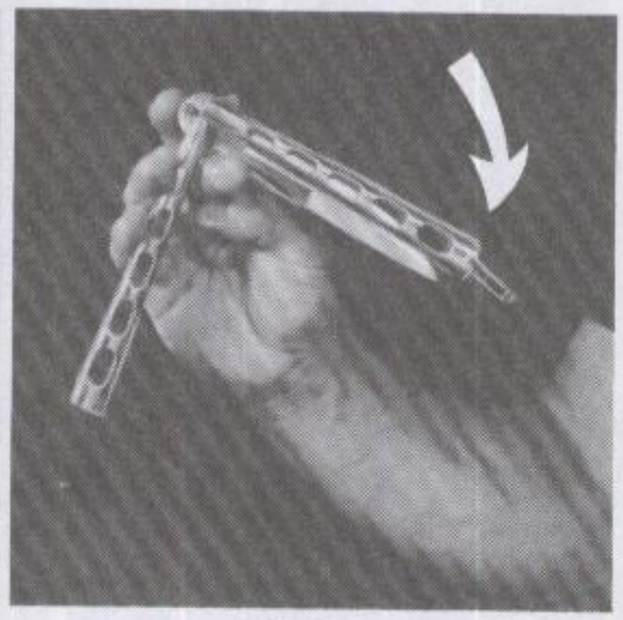

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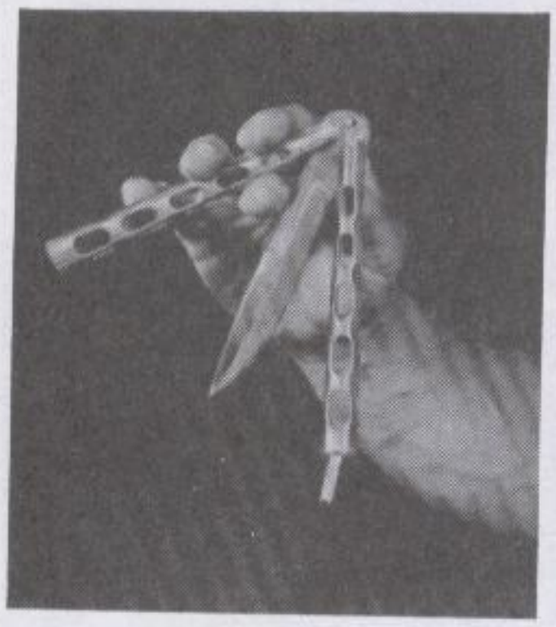

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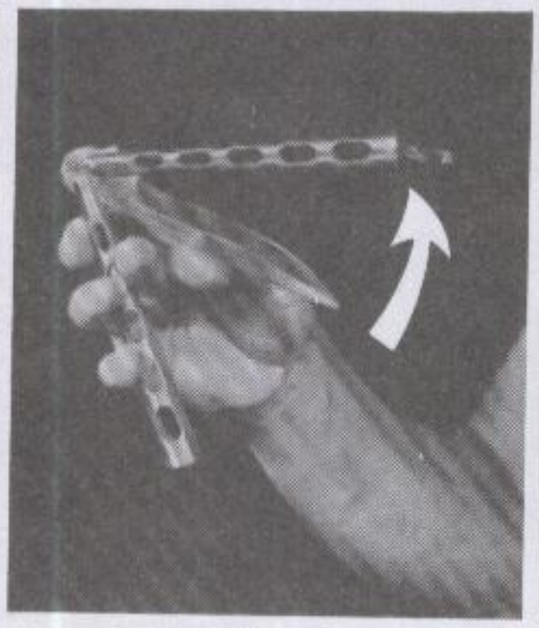

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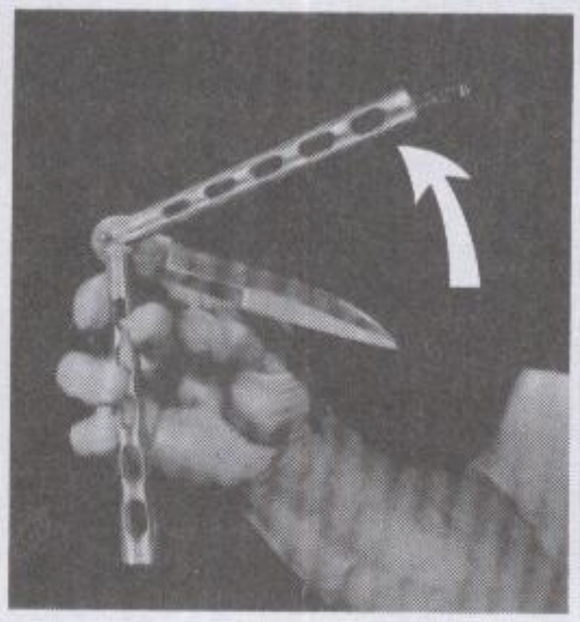

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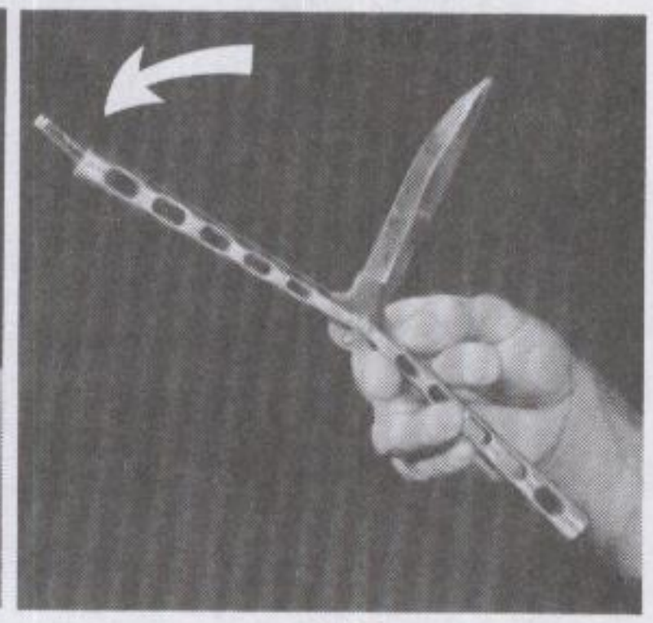

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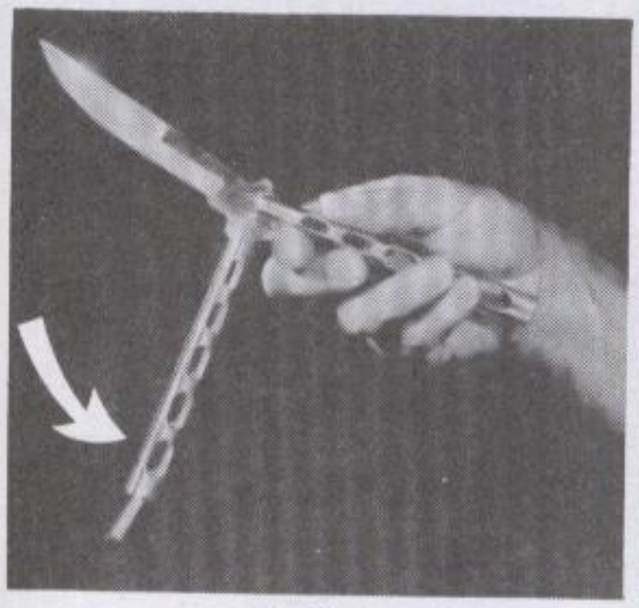

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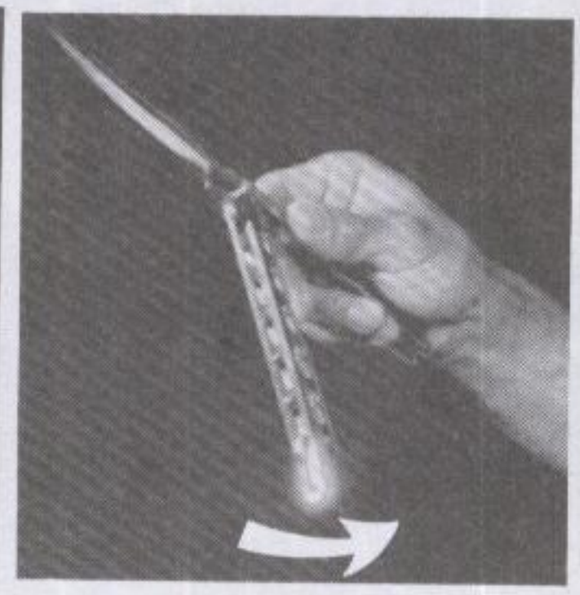

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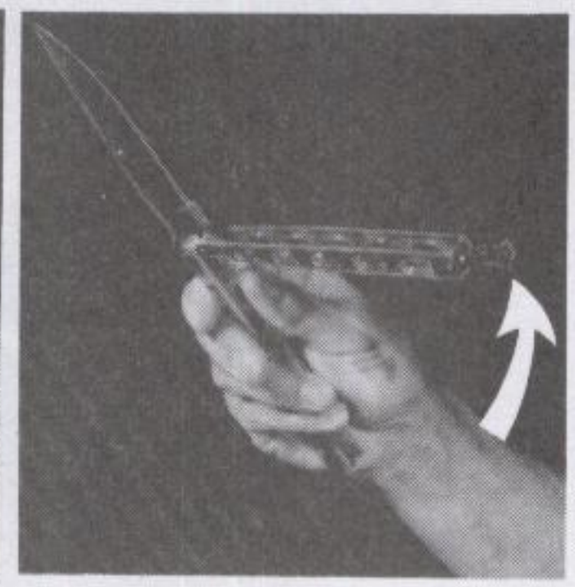

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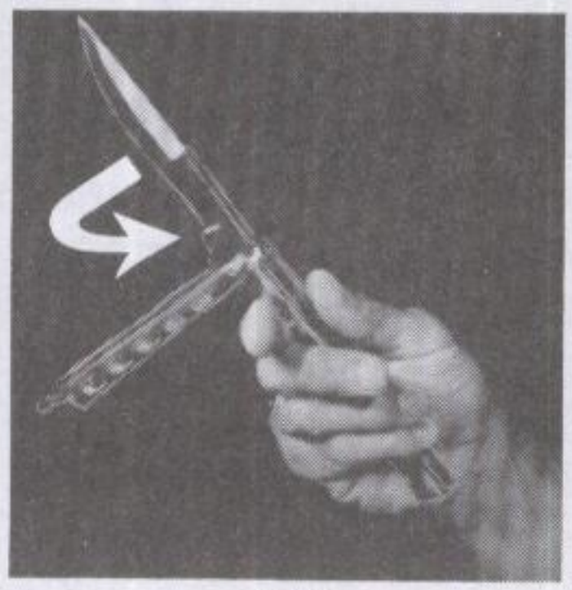

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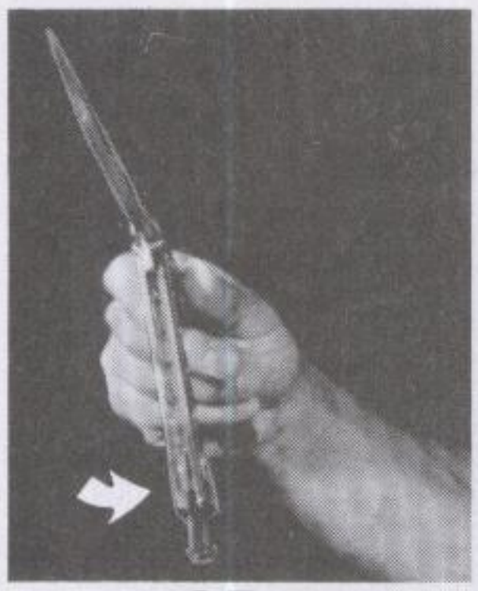

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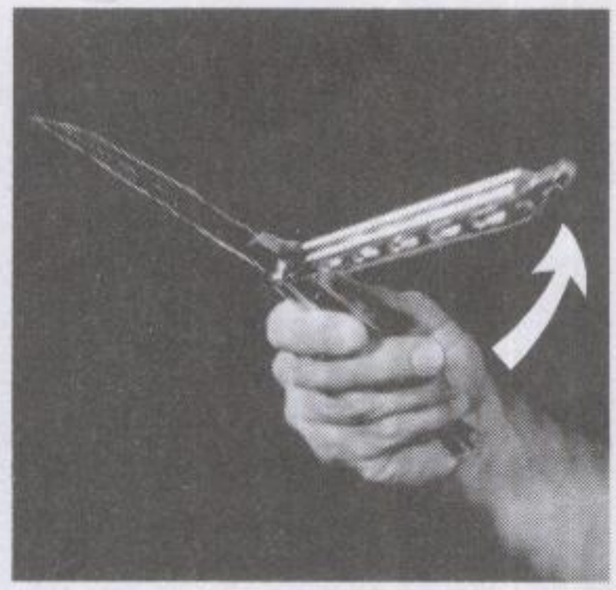

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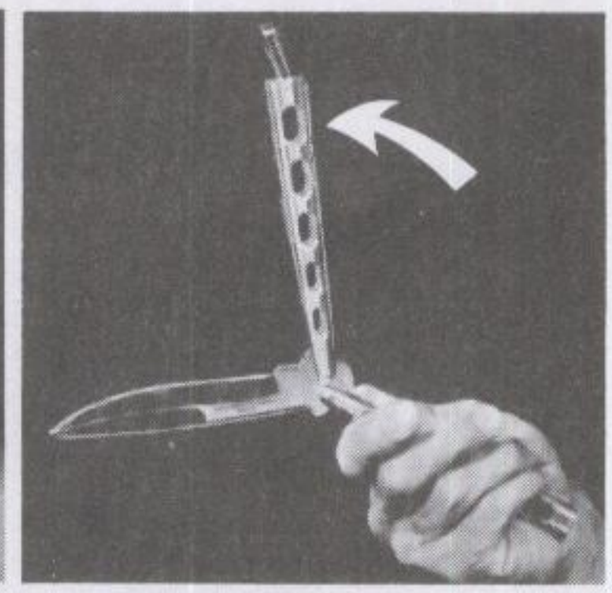

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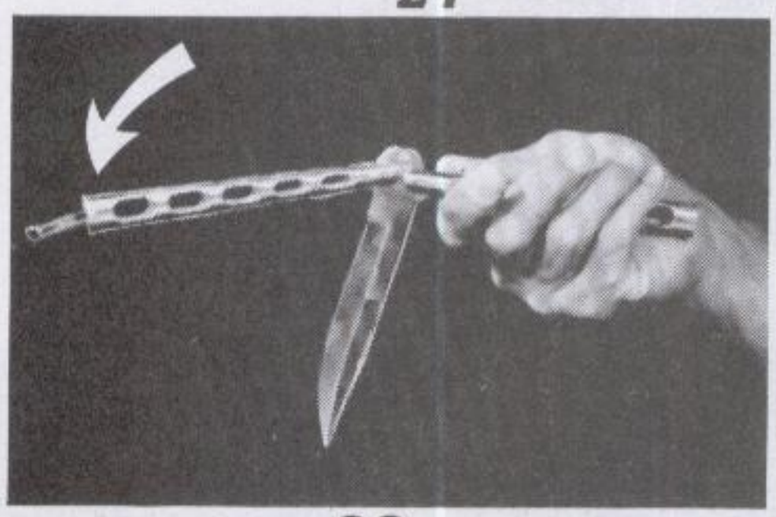

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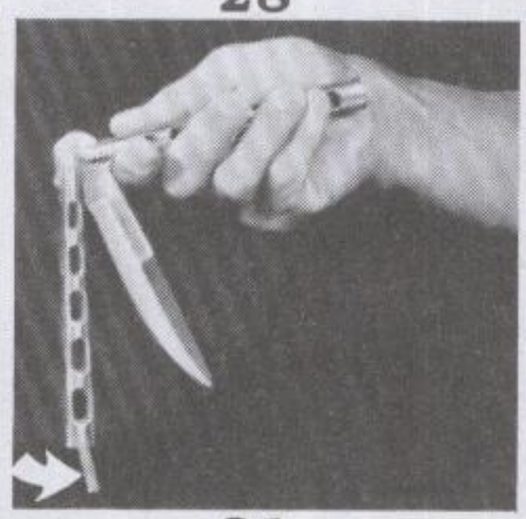

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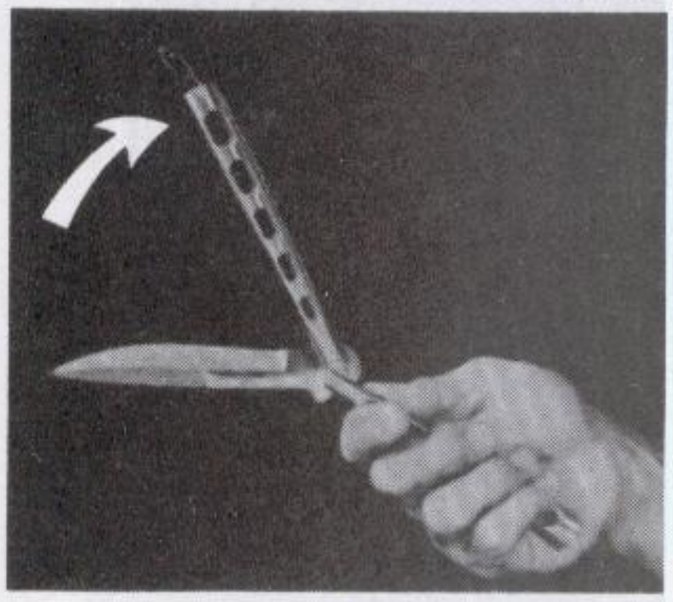

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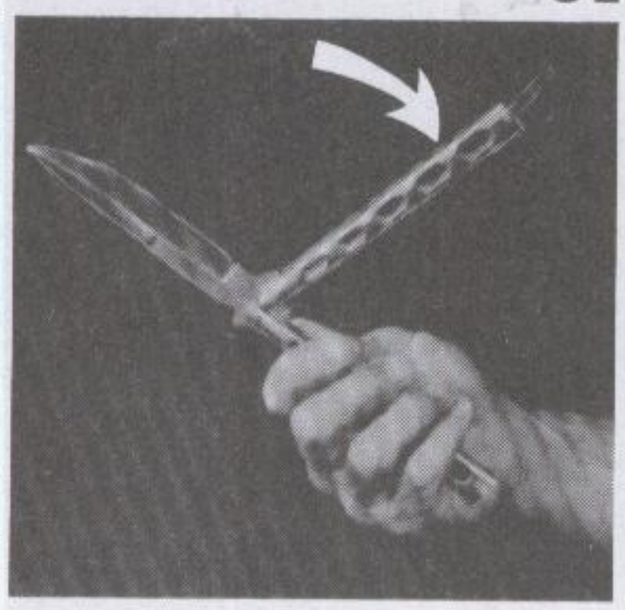

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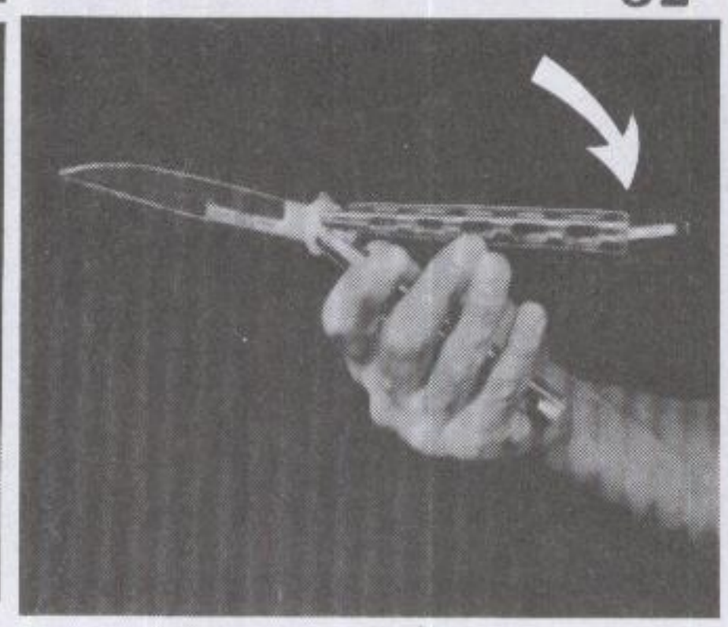

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Retaining the "safe" handle, flip the opposing handle up and over away from you (1, 2, 3 & 4). When the handle has traveled about 270°, change your grip by placing your middle finger on top of the safe handle (5). Reverse the direction of the handle travel by finger twirling the safe handle with your index and middle fingers (6 & 7), causing the opposing handle to swing up and in (8, 9 & 10). Make sure to keep your other fingers out of the way. As the safe handle approaches a vertical position, place your third finger next to your index finger on the back side of the handle (11). Finger twirl with your middle and third finger, moving your index finger out of the way to continue the swing of the opposing handle up and in a second time (12, 13 & 14). Place your index finger next to your third finger on the back side of the handle (15). Note the middle finger between the safe handle and the safe side of the blade.

Swing the opposing handle up and over away from your body, simultaneously placing your middle finger on the back side of the safe handle (16, 17, 18 & 19). Quickly change your grip to a palm-down grip and twist the handle to the right. Loosen your grip in order to let the opposing handle spin around like a propeller,. 1½ times (20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26 & 27). As the opposing handle points toward your body, finish the opening by flipping the handle up and over, away from you (28, 29 & 30). Just before the safe side of the blade hits the back of your index finger (31), reverse the direction of travel (32), and swing the knife handle up and back (33 & 34). Open your hand and prepare to catch the up-coming handle in an open knife position (35 & 36).

FINGER TWIRL CLOSING

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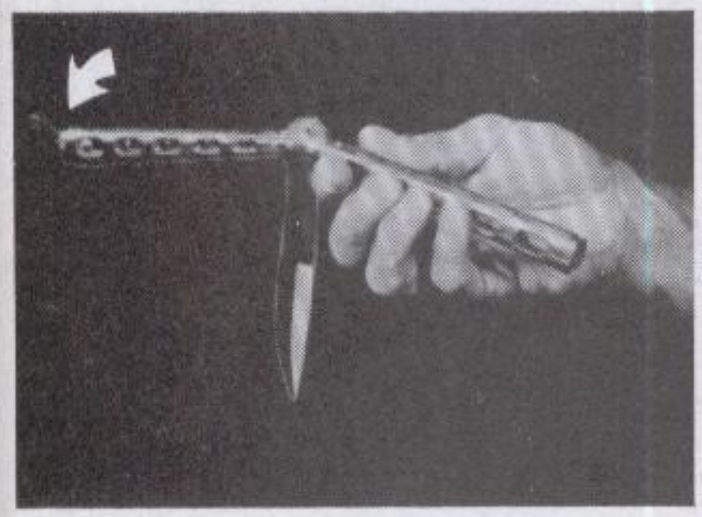

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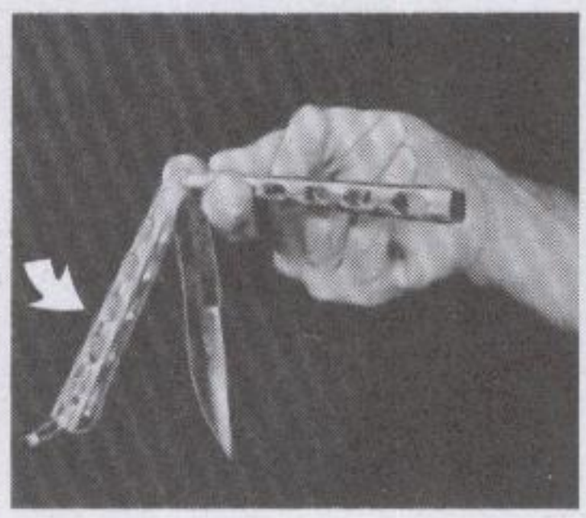

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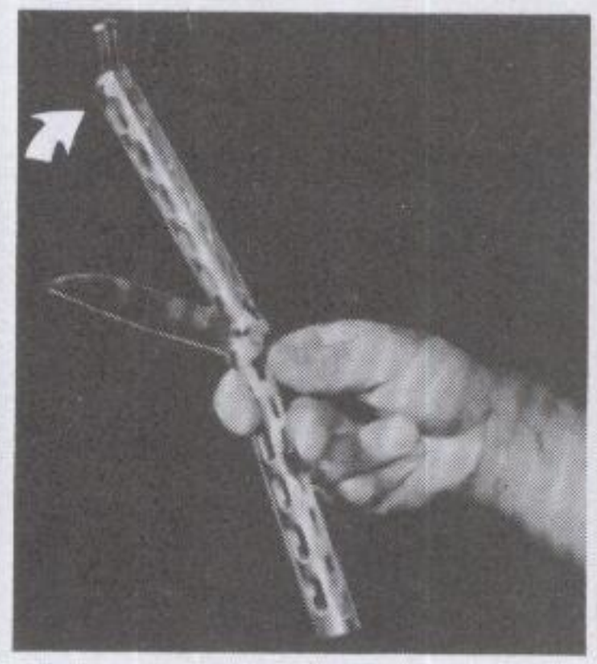

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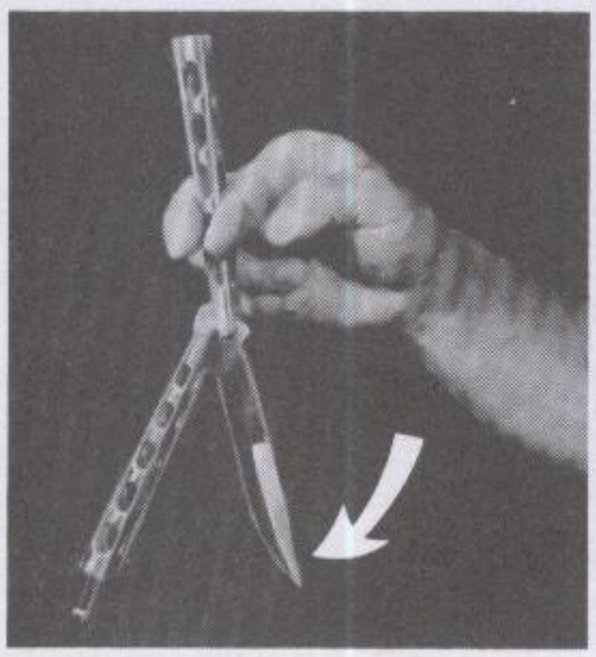

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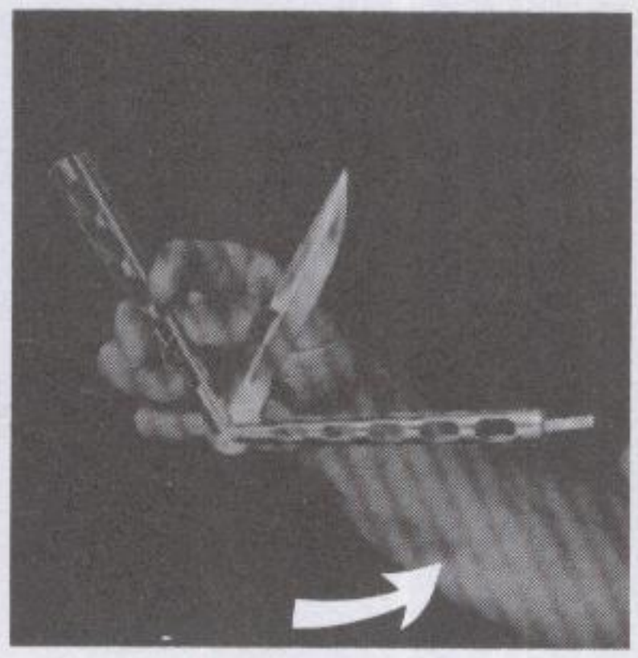

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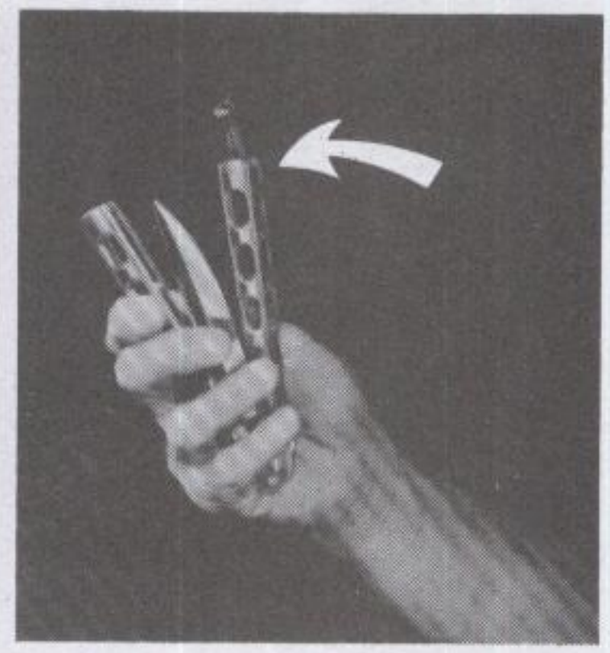

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Retain the "safe" handle and flip the opposing handle up and over (1, 2, 3 & 4). Just before the safe side of the blade hits the back of your index finger, place your middle finger on top of the safe handle (5). Reverse the direction of travel by finger twirling the safe handle with your index and middle fingers (6), causing the opposing handle to swing up and in (7 & 8). Make sure to keep your other fingers out of the way. Change the swing direction by using your fingers for leverage and swing the opposing handle back up (9). Make sure to move your index finger out of the way to catch the knife in a closed position (10).

DOUBLE FLIP, AND FINGER TWIRL OPENING

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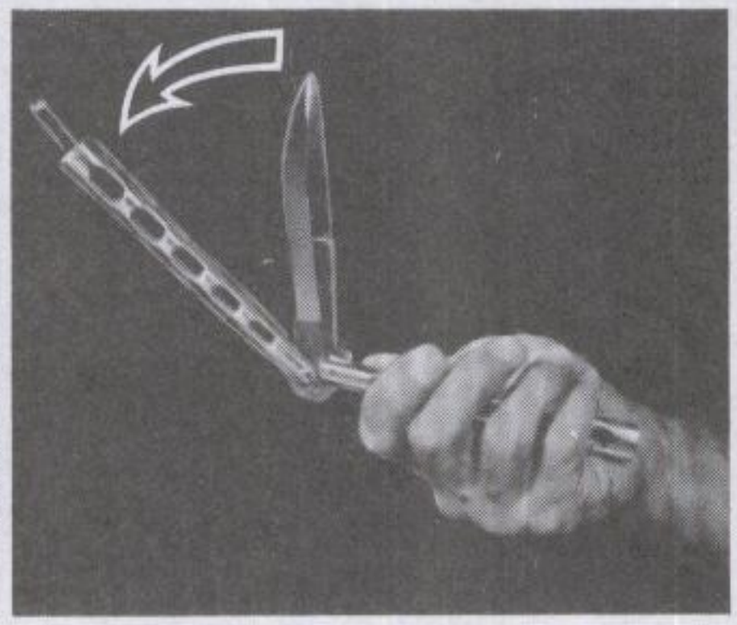
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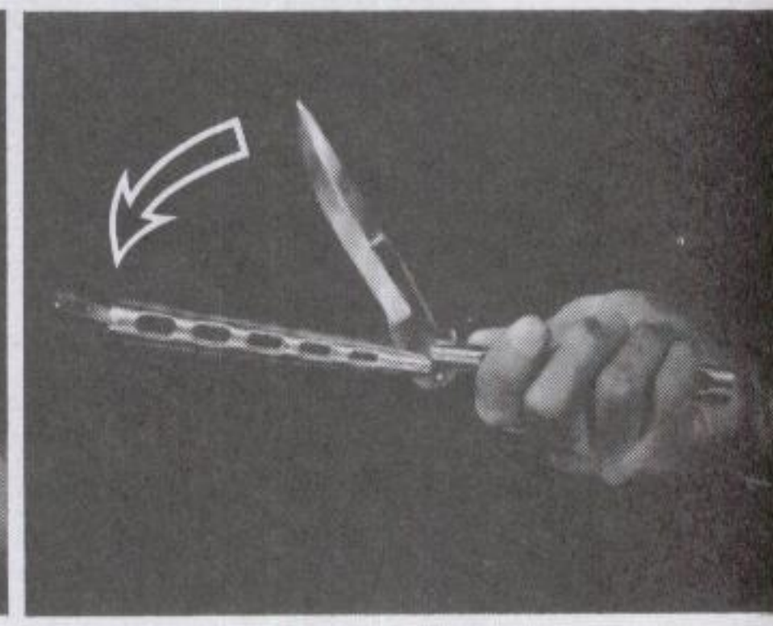
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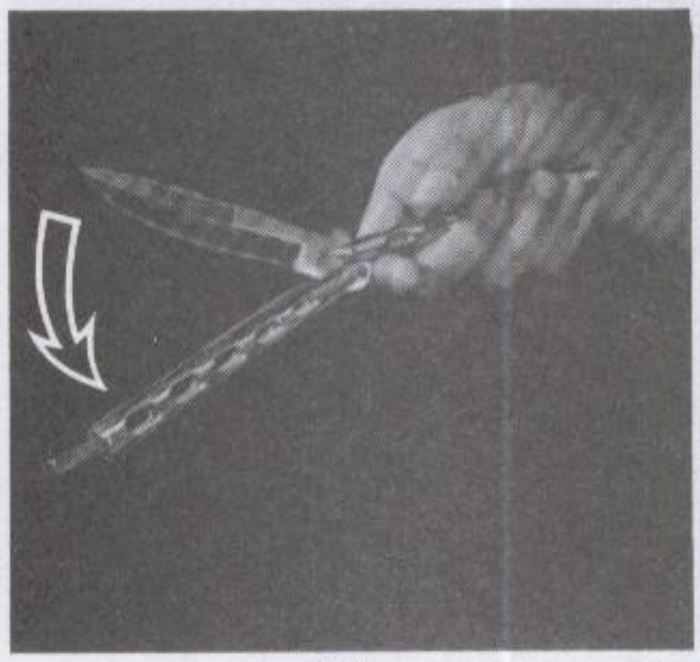
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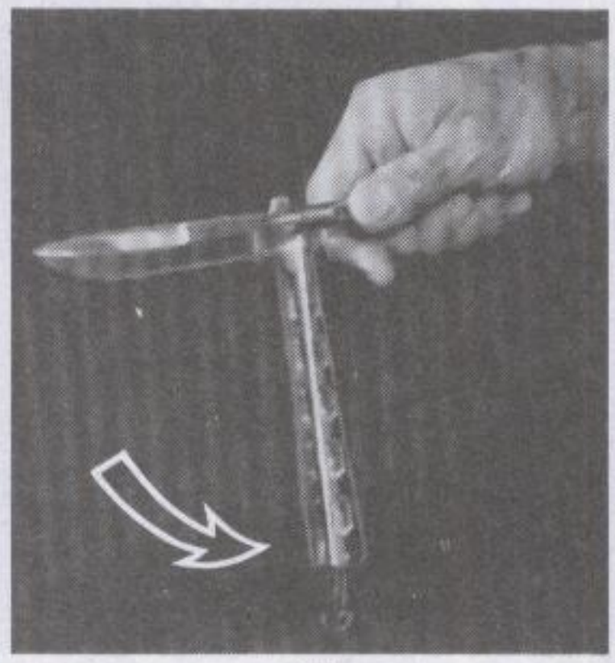
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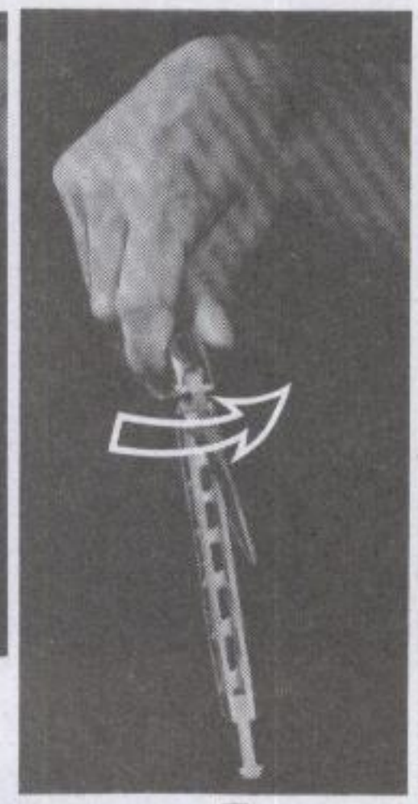
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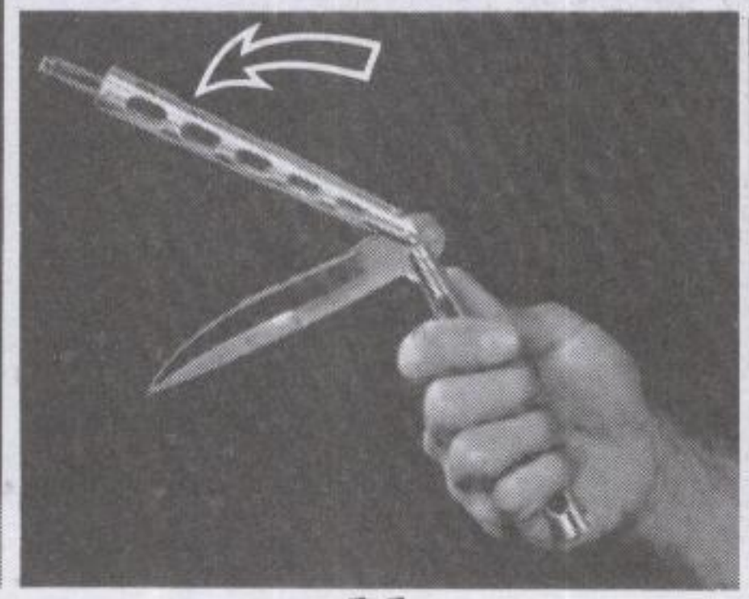
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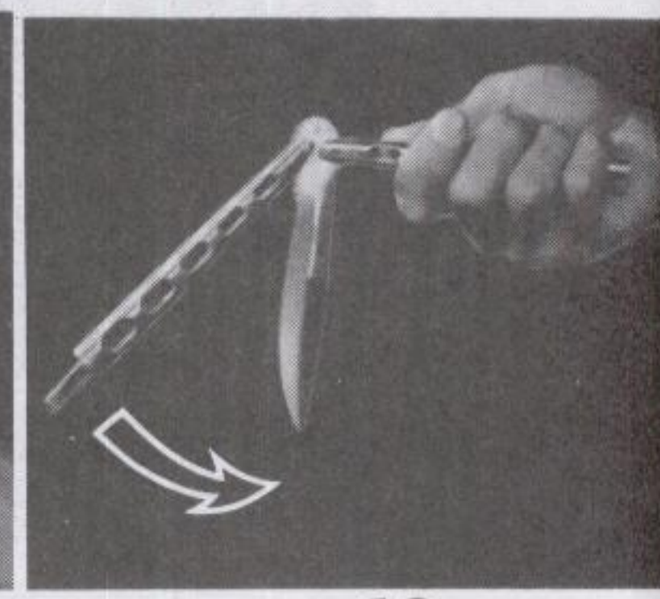
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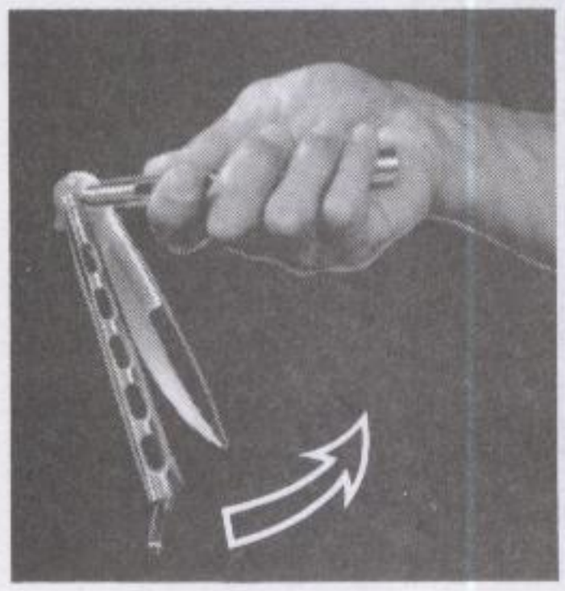
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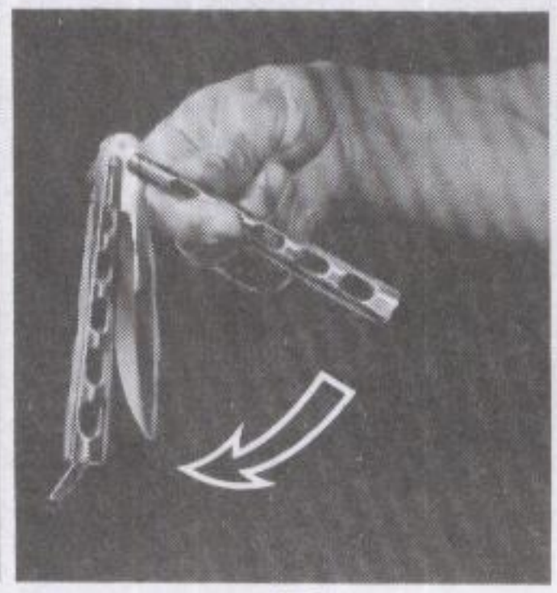
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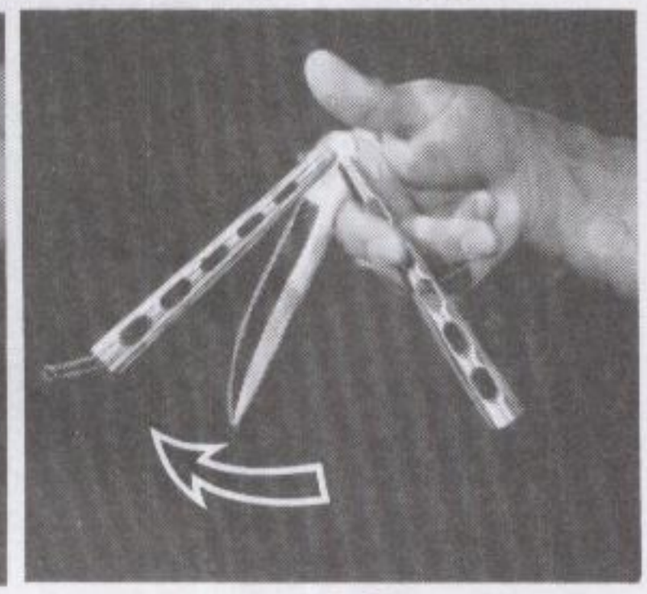
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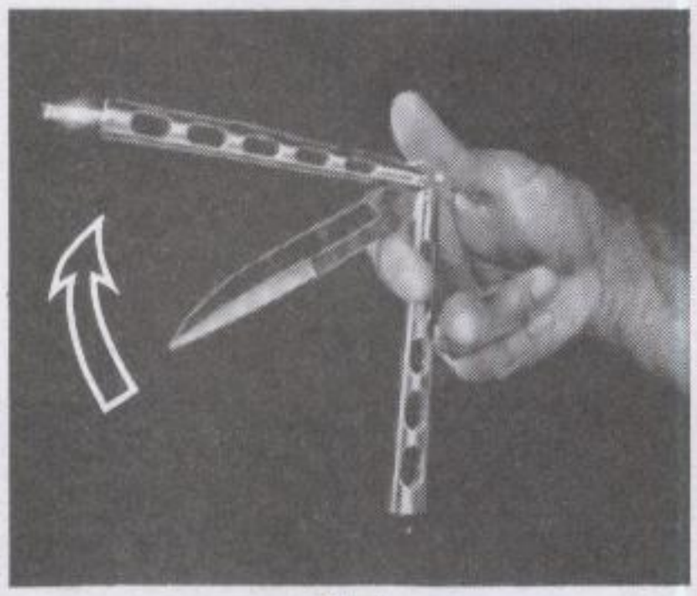

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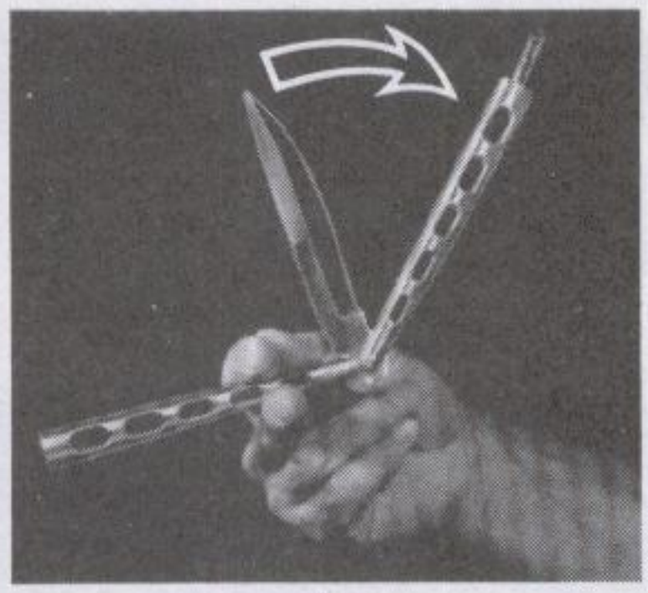

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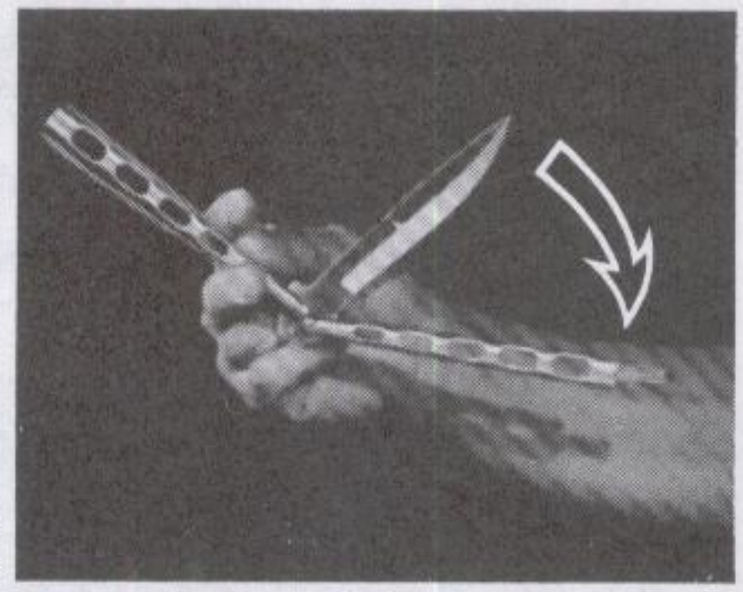

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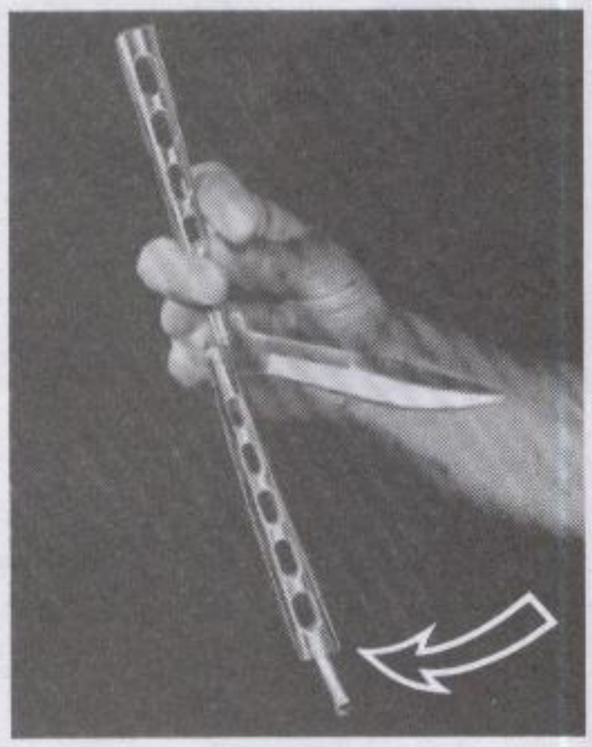

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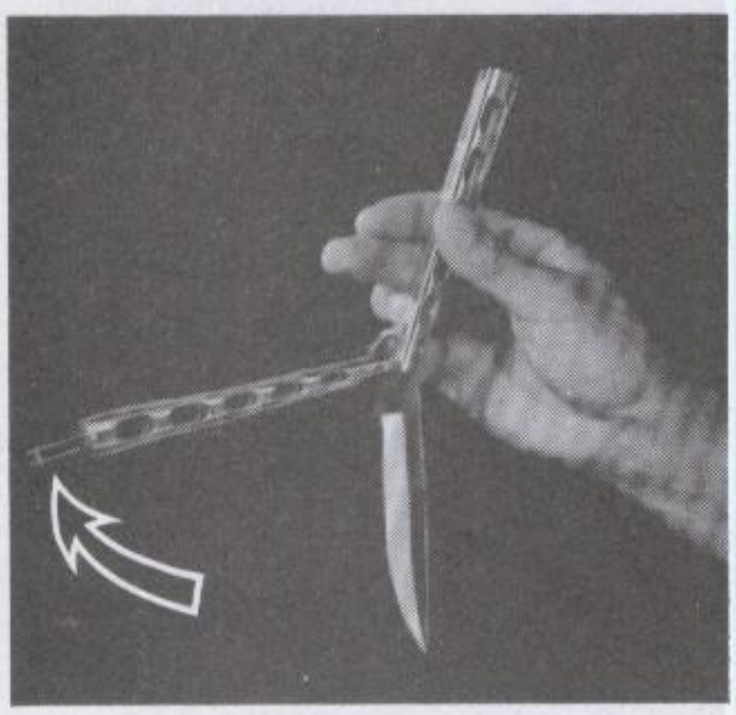

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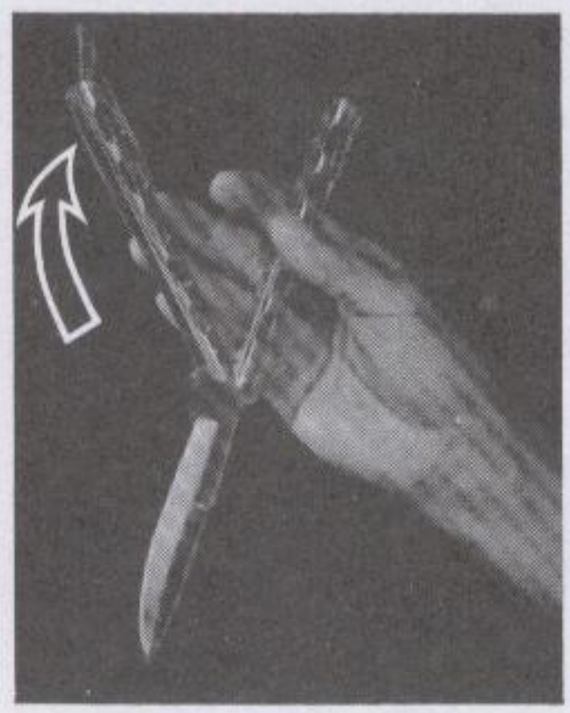

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26

With the latch open, retain the "safe" handle and flip the opposing handle up and over (1, 2, 3, 4 & 5). When the handle has traveled about 270°, turn your hand counterclockwise (not rotating knife) from a palm-up to a palm-down position (6). Turn the knife in towards you (7), with a palm-down grip, flip the blade out and over away from you (8 & 9), by turning your palm and knife up and over (10, 11 & 12). Just before the safe side of the blade hits the back of your index finger (13), change your grip by placing your middle finger on top of the safe handle. Reverse the direction of travel by finger twirling the safe handle with your index and middle fingers (14 & 15), causing the opposing handle to swing up and in. Make sure to keep your other fingers out of the way (16, 17 & 18). Place your thumb on the safe handle and apply pressure to continue the rotation and for control (19 & 20). As the safe handle approaches a vertical position, pull your index finger out and place it next to your middle finger on the back side of the safe handle (21 & 22). As the opposing handle swings up, open your fingers to catch the handle (23 & 24). Close your fingers and hand to end up in an ice-pick grip (25 & 26).

DROP AND CATCH CLOSING

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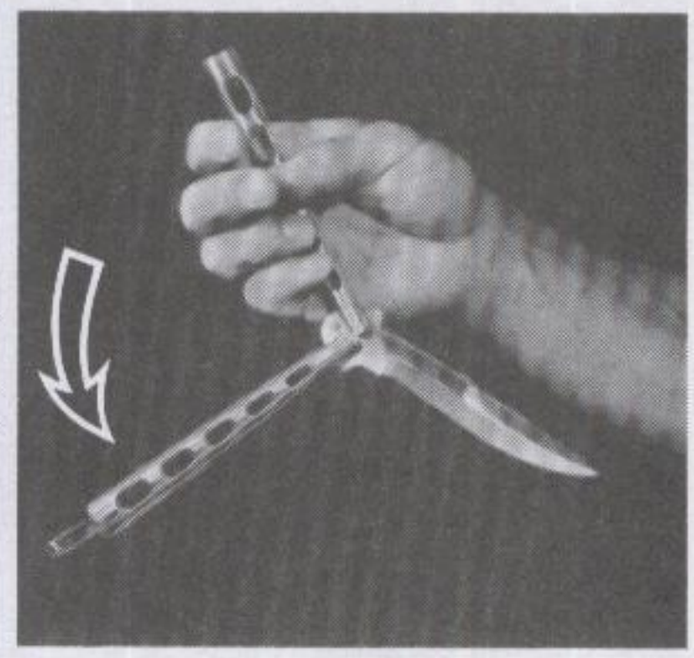

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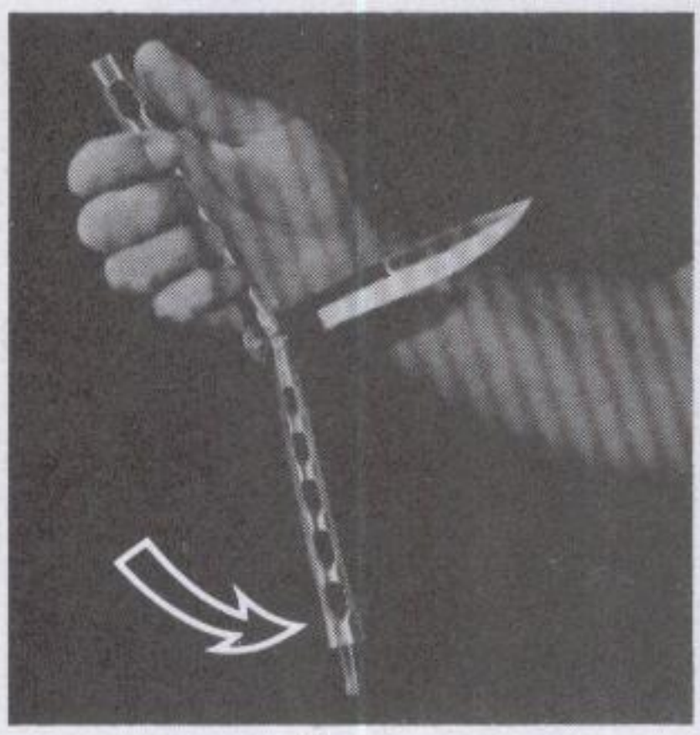

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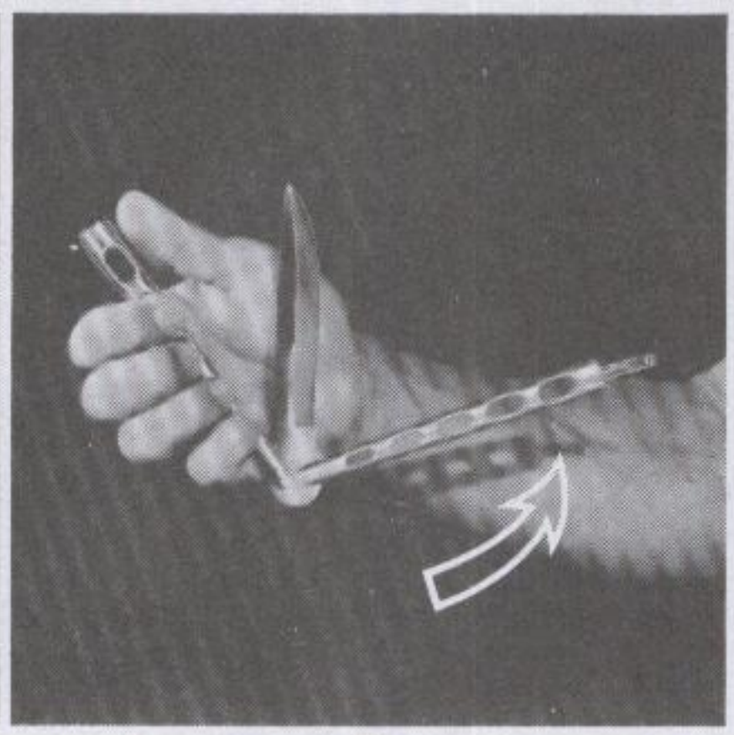

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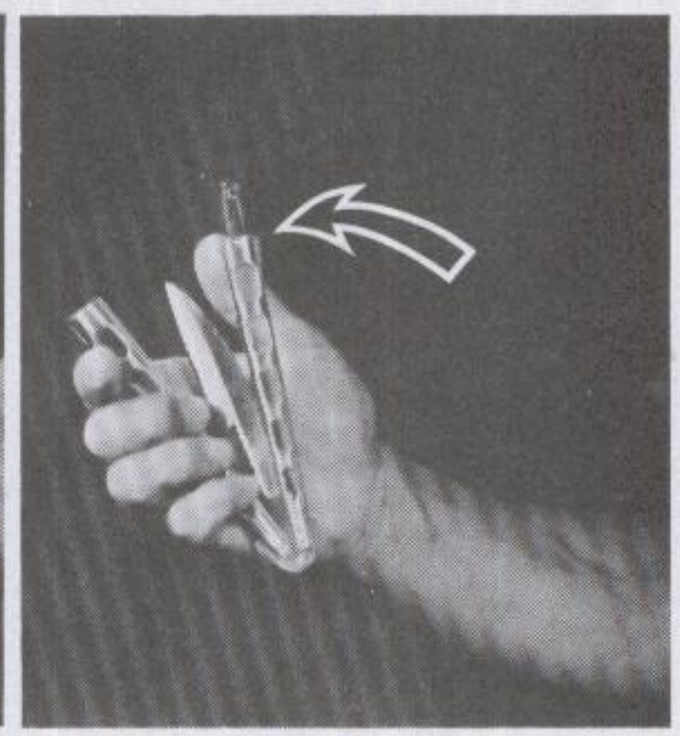

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7

Grip the "safe" handle with your thumb and palm (1). Drop and swing the opposing handle around and up (2). Change your palm and thumb grip to an all fingers grip to catch the up-coming blade and handle (3, 4, 5, 6 & 7).

TRIPLE FLIP OPENING

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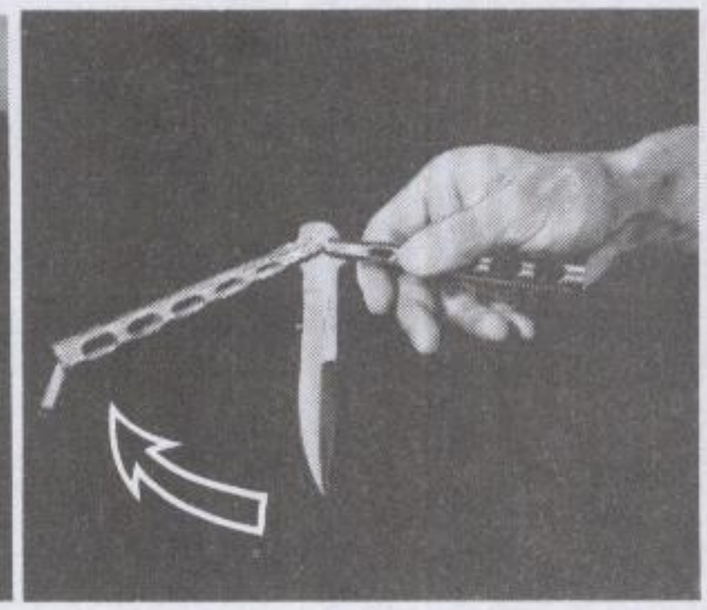
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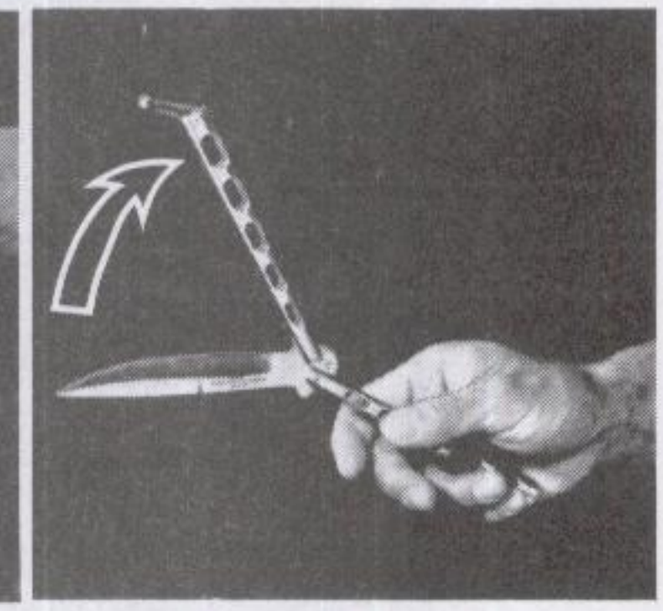
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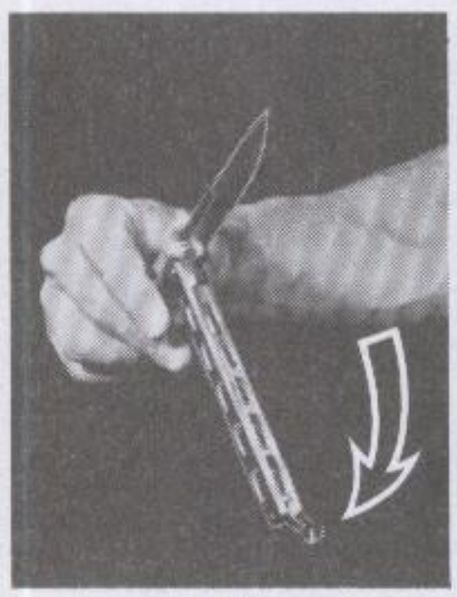
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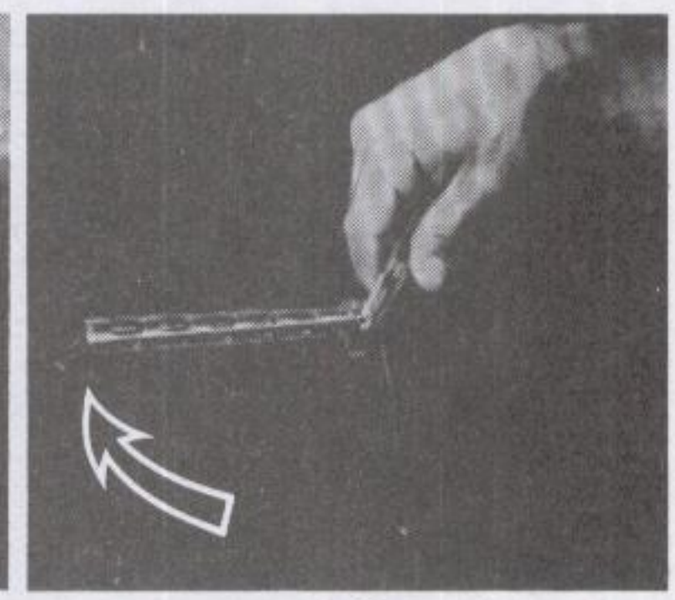
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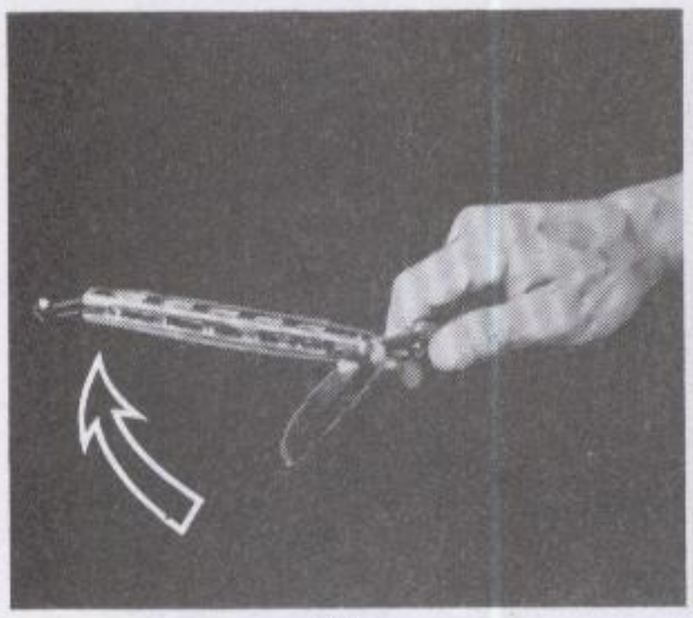
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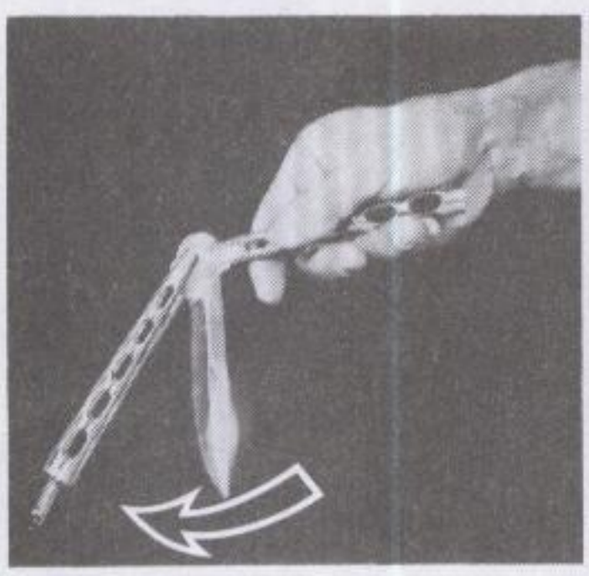
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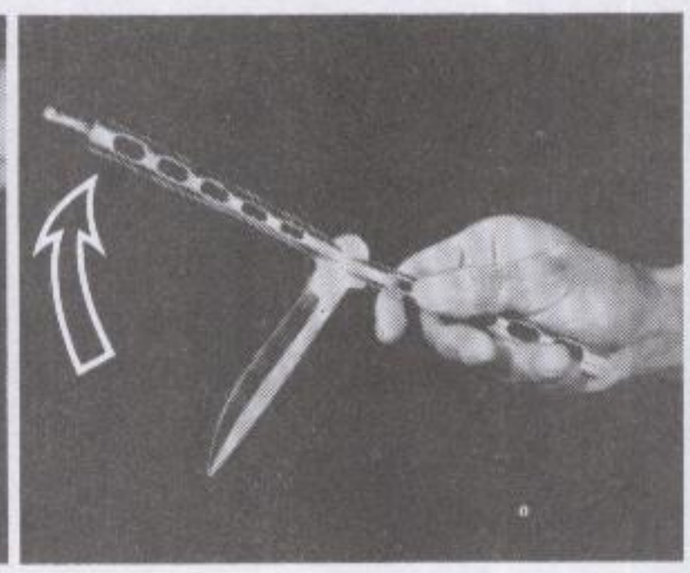
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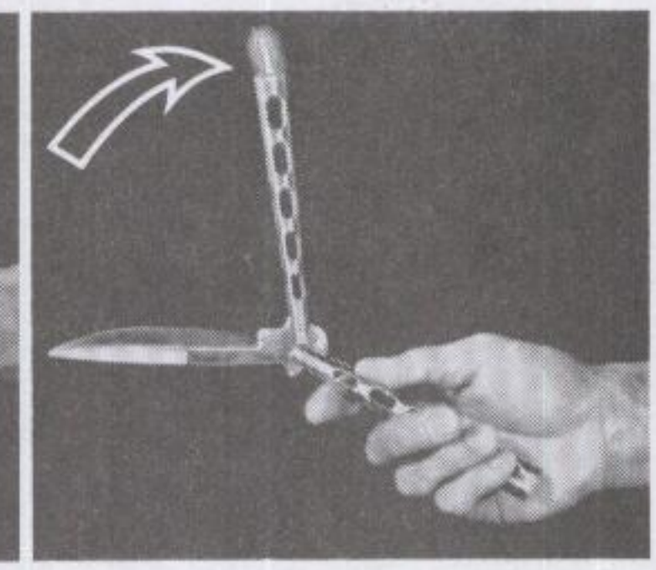
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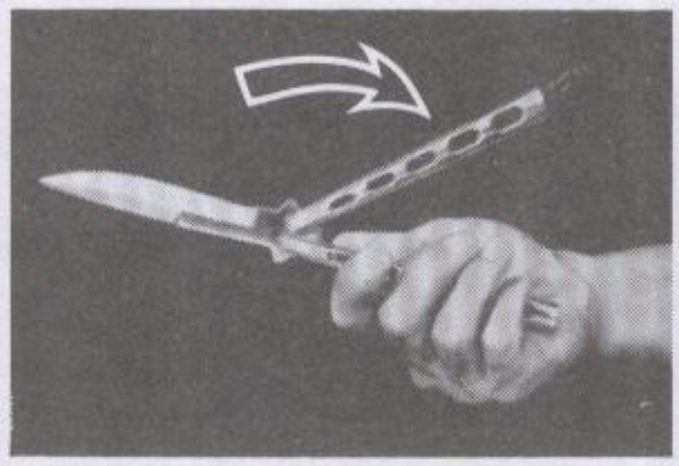

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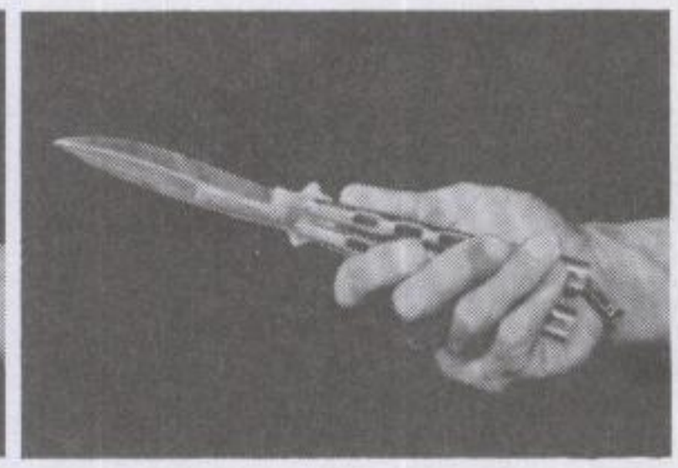
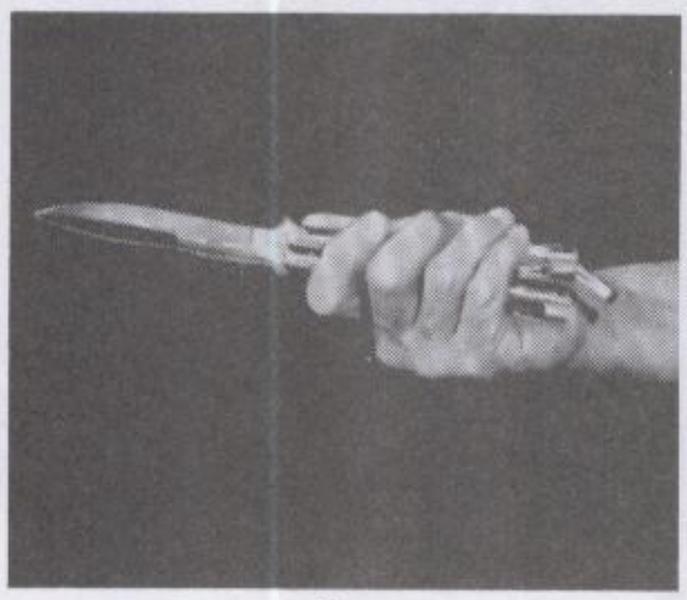


17

Retaining the "safe" handle, drop and swing the lower handle up and over (1, 2, 3 & 4). As the opposing handle comes up towards you, change your grip to a palm-down grip and let the safe handle rotate one-half turn, counterclockwise (5, 6 & 7). Repeat the whole movement by swinging the opposing handle up (8 & 9). As the opposing handle comes over towards you, change your grip to a palm-down grip and let the safe handle rotate one-half turn counterclockwise (10, 11 & 12). Swing the lower handle up, as the opposing handle comes over towards you, change your grip to a palm-up grip to catch the handle and knife in an open position (13, 14, 15, 16 & 17).

TRIPLE FLIP CLOSING



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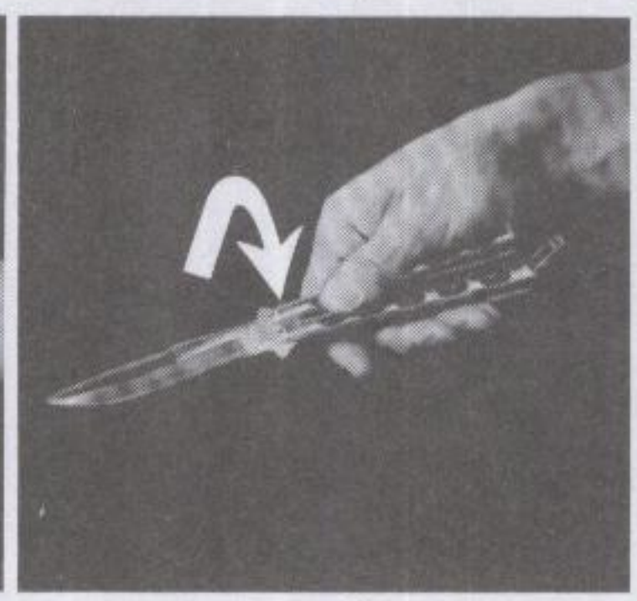

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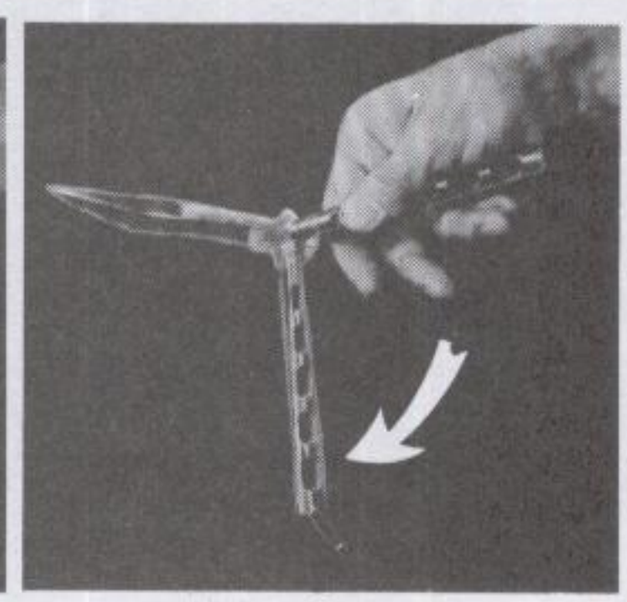

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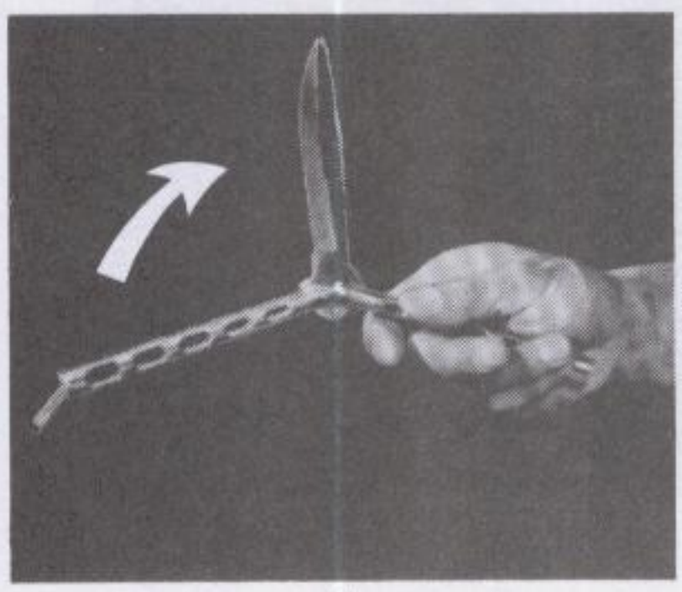

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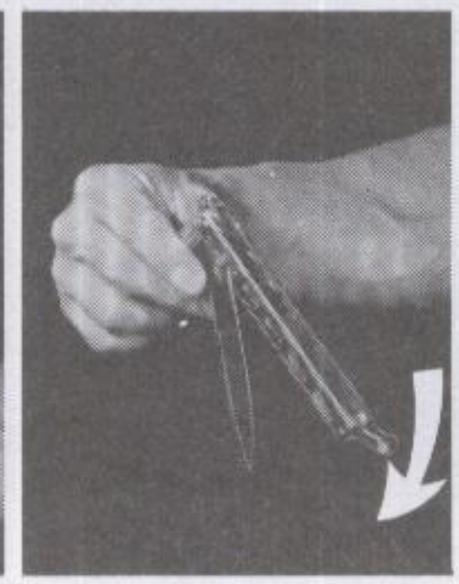

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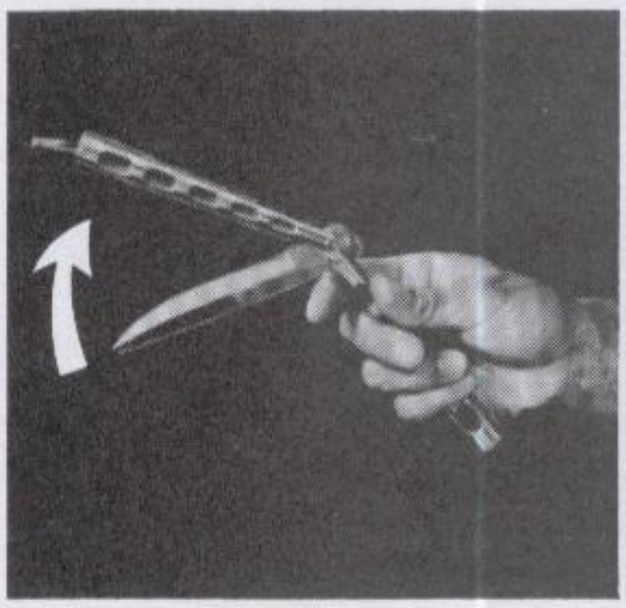

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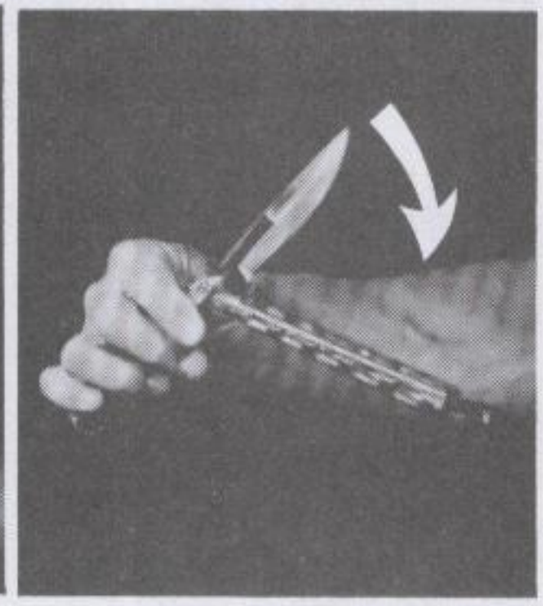

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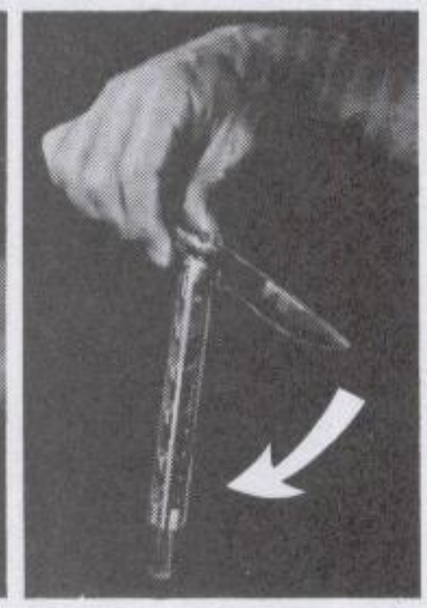

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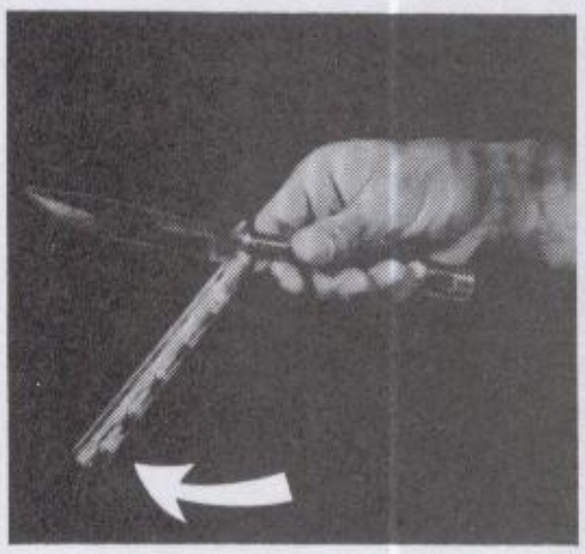

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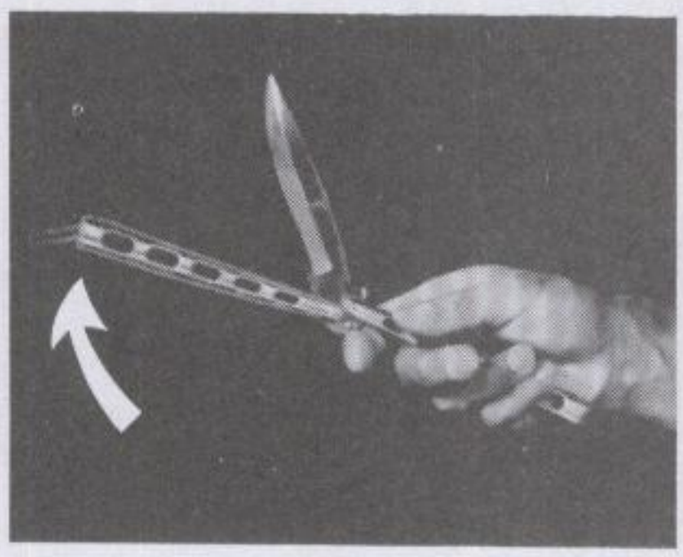

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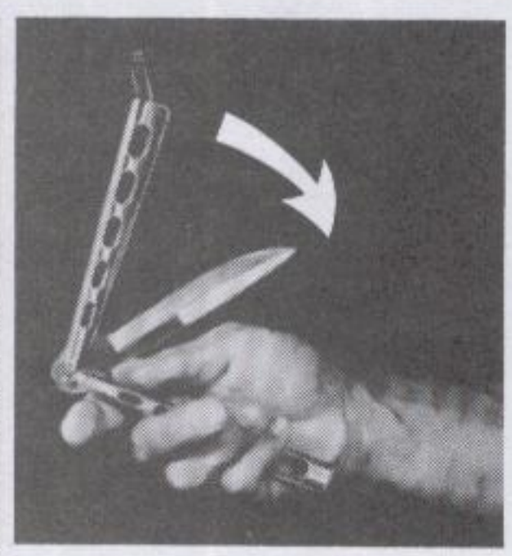

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16

Rotate your hand and knife to a palm-down position (1 & 2). Drop and swing the lower handle up (3 & 4), as the opposing handle and blade come towards you, change your grip to a palm-down position and let the safe handle rotate one-half turn, counterclockwise (5, 6 & 7). Repeat the whole movement by swinging the lower handle up (8). As the opposing handle and blade come towards you, change your grip to a palm-down position and let the safe handle rotate one-half turn, counterclockwise (9, 10 & 11). Swing the lower handle up as the opposing handle and blade come towards you (12 & 13), change your grip to a palm-up grip, to catch the handle and knife in the closed position (14, 15 & 16).

DOUBLE FLIP, FINGER TWIRL, TRIPLE FLIP OPENING

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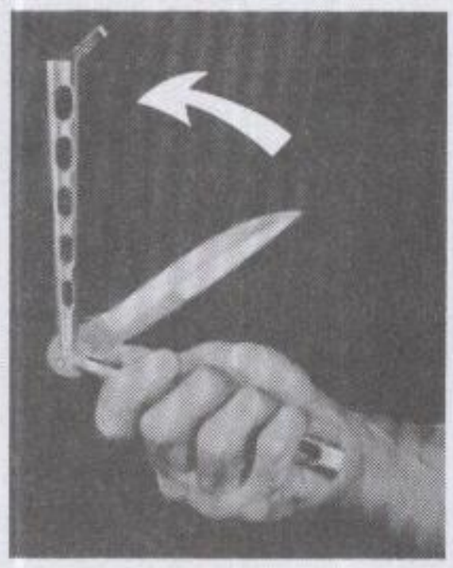
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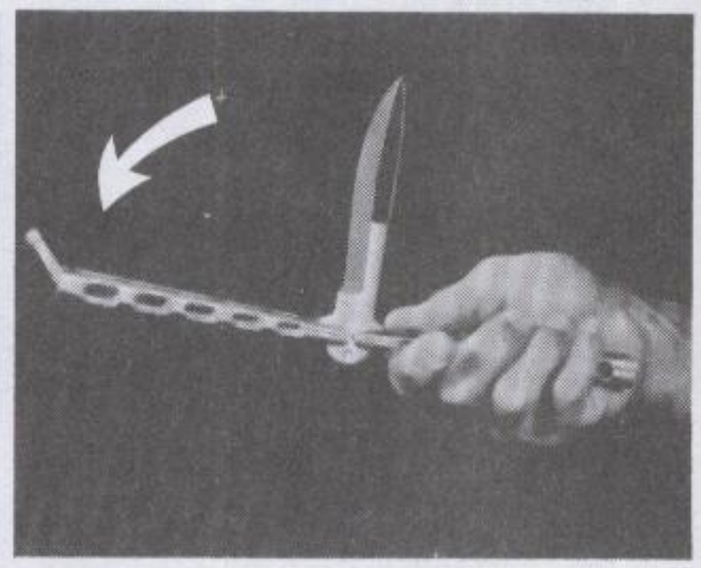
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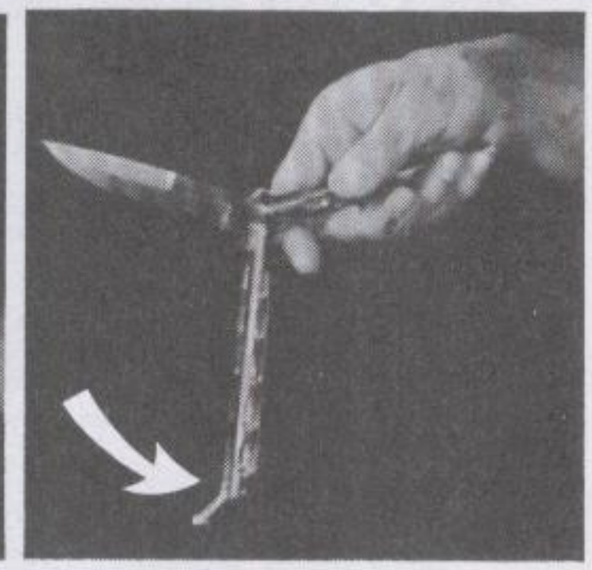
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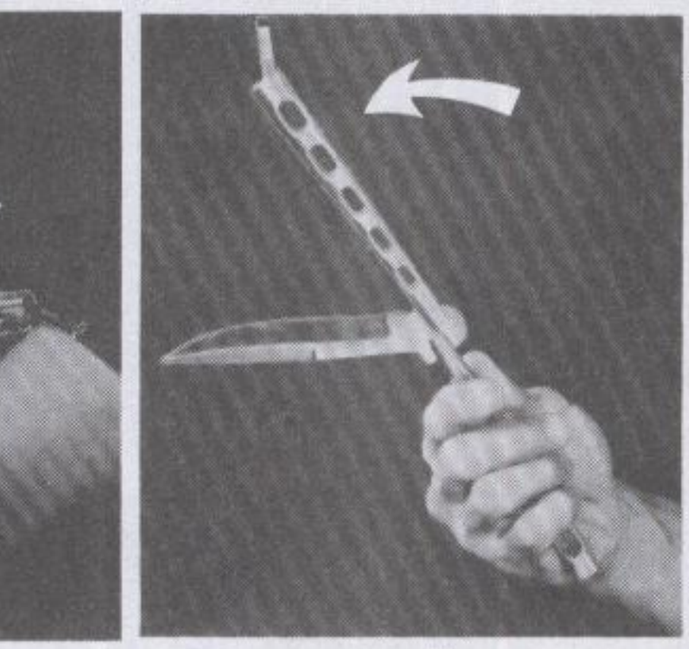
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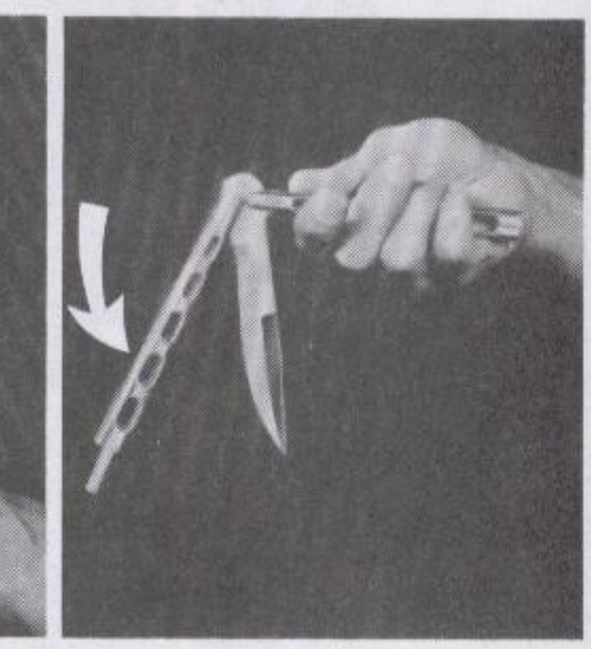
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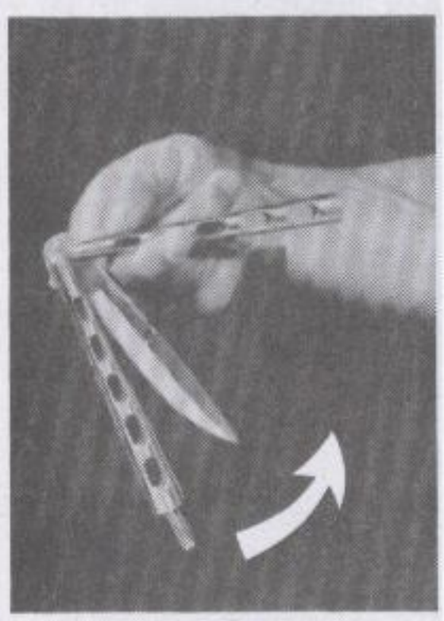
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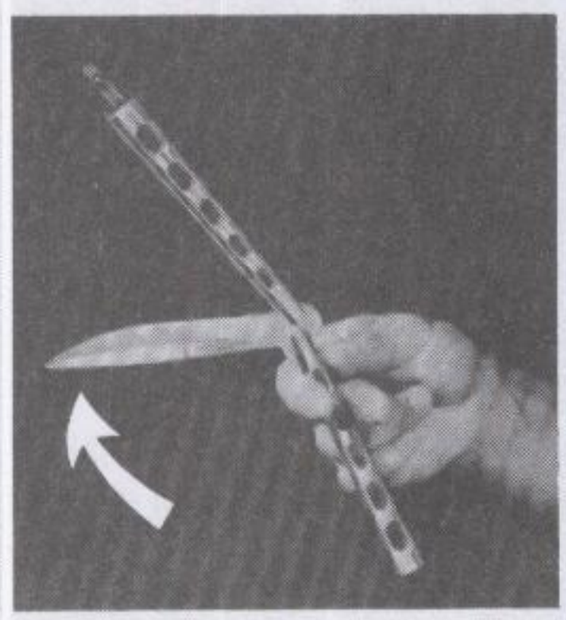
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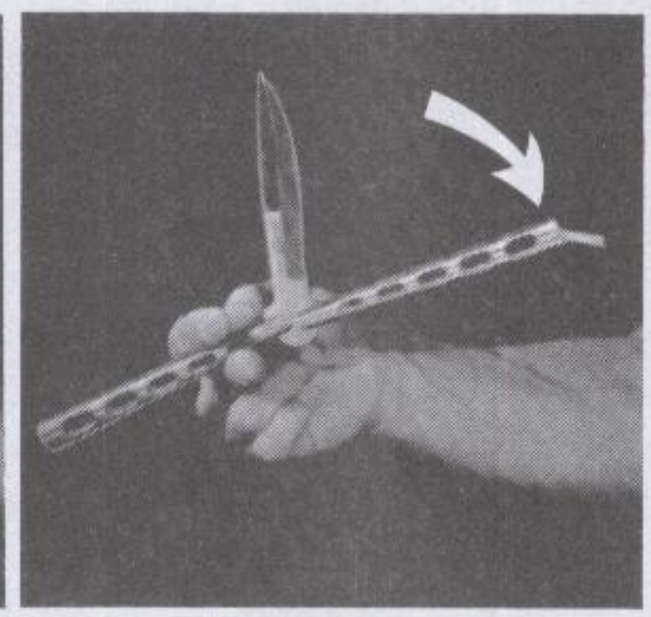
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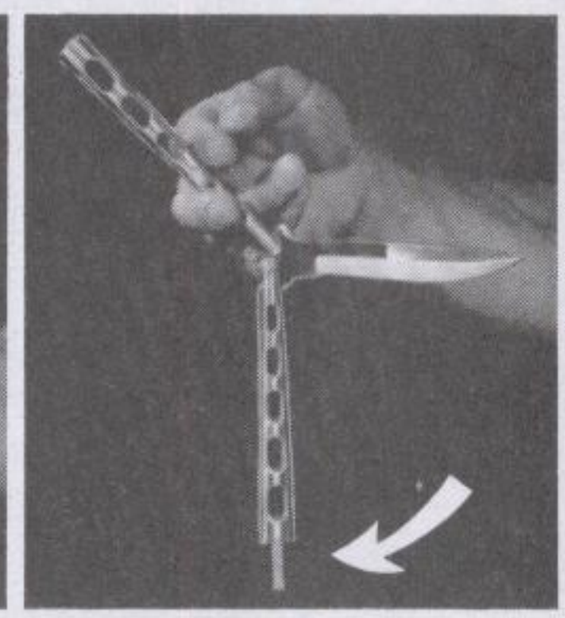
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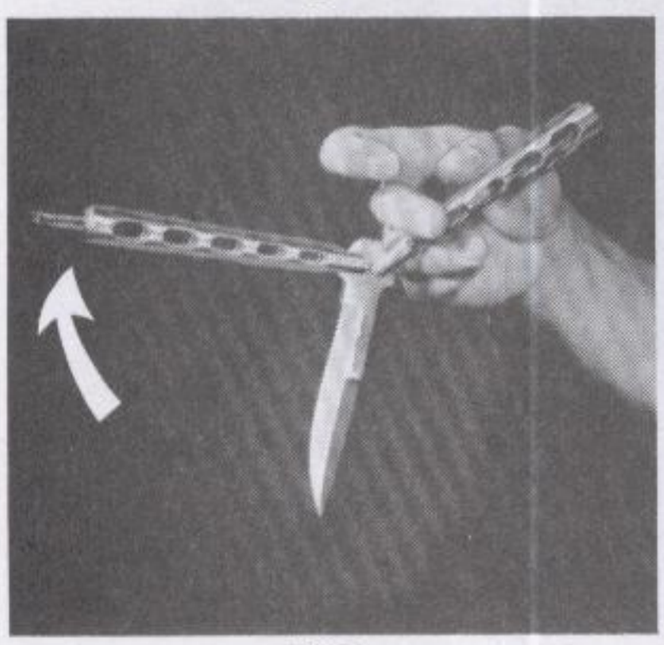
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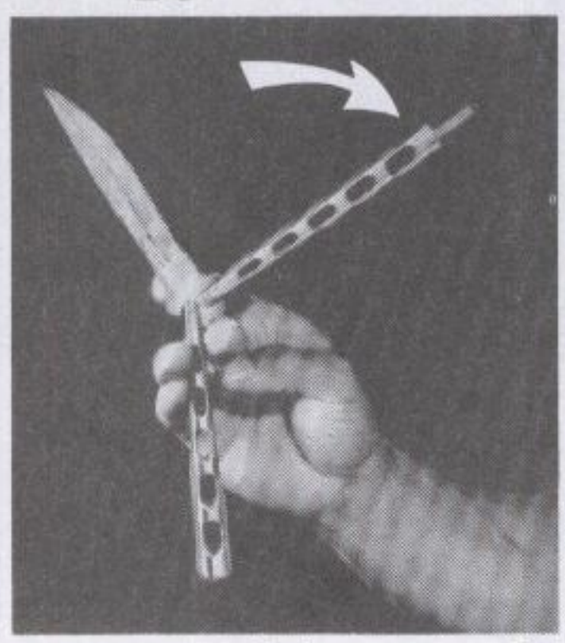
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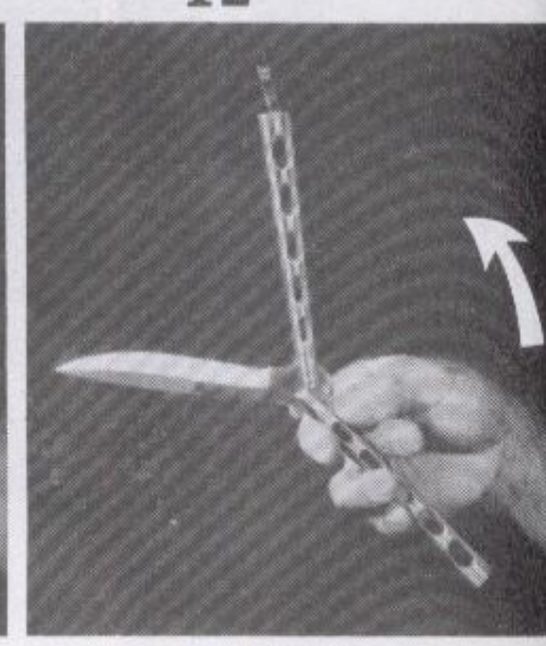
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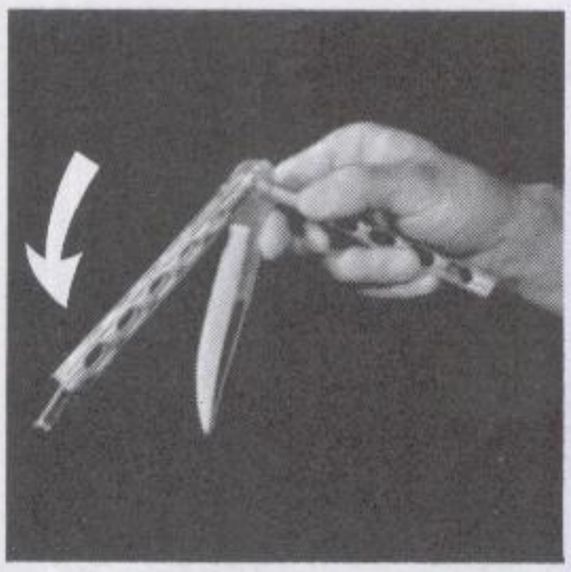

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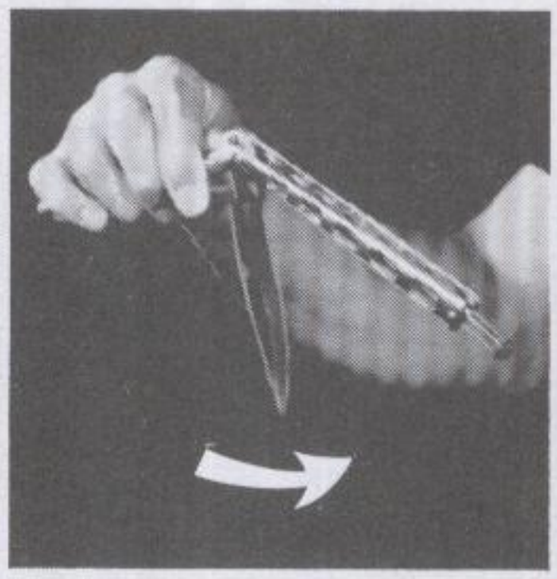

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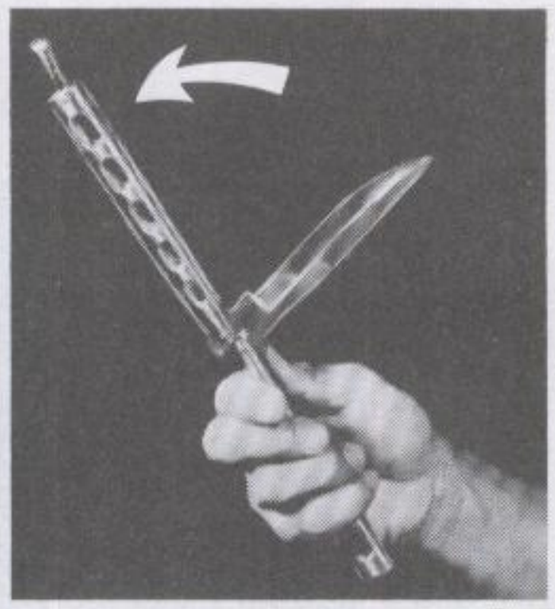

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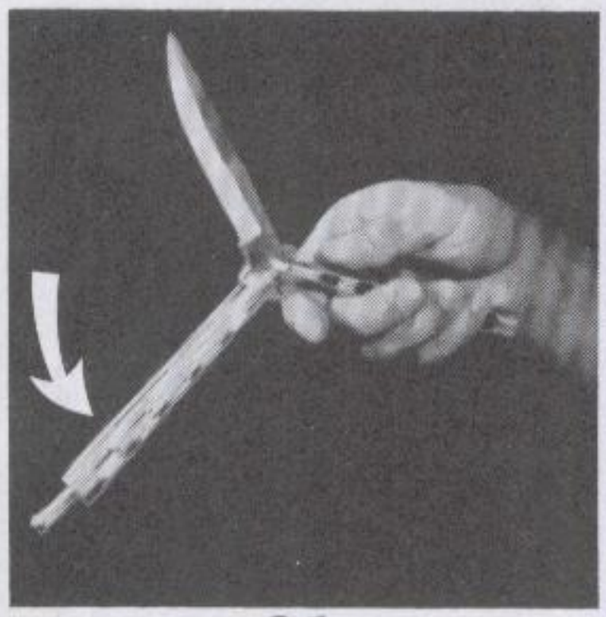

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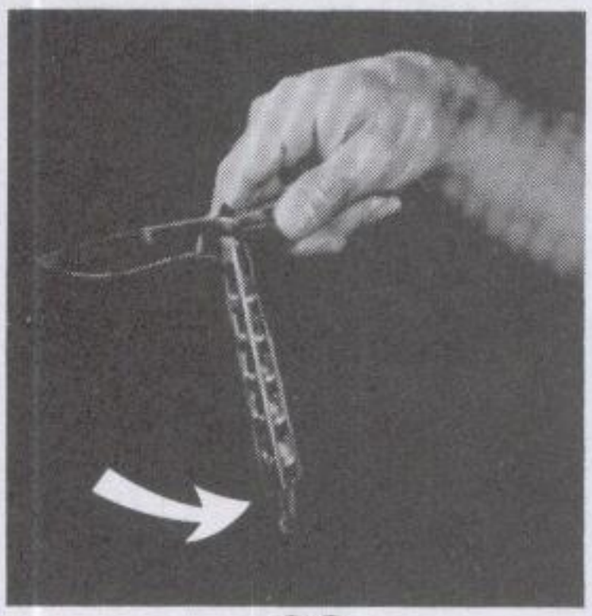

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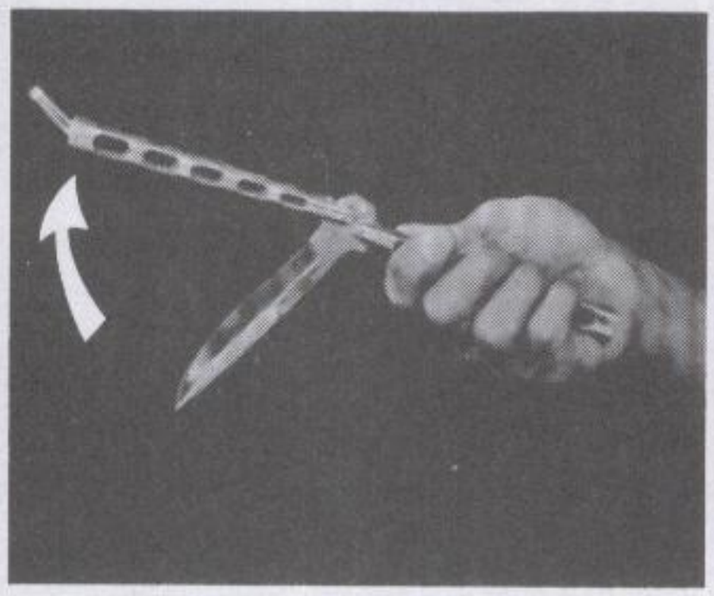

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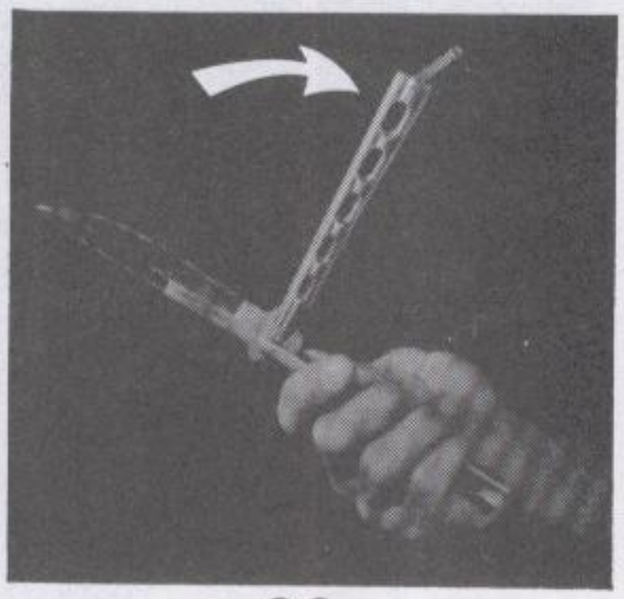

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DOUBLE FLIP CLOSING

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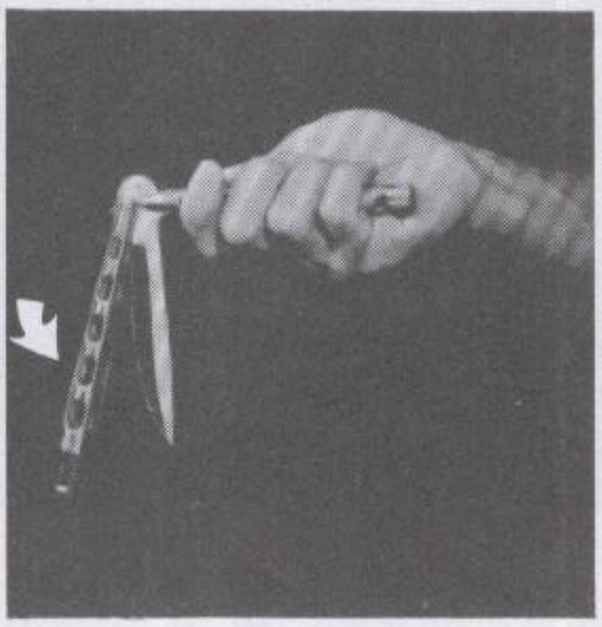

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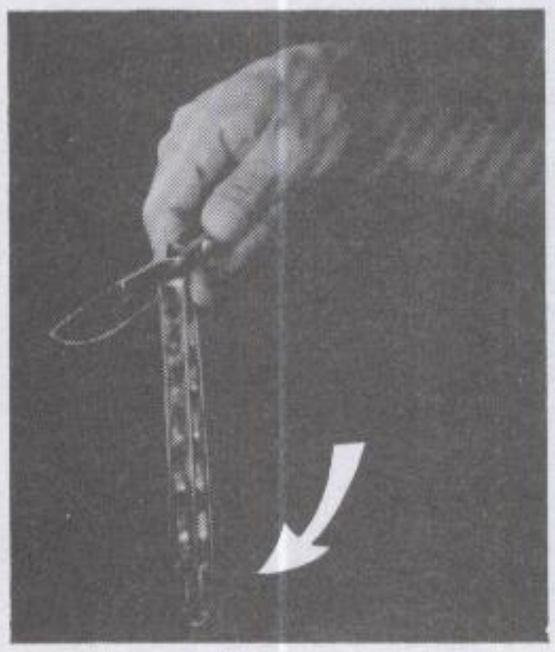

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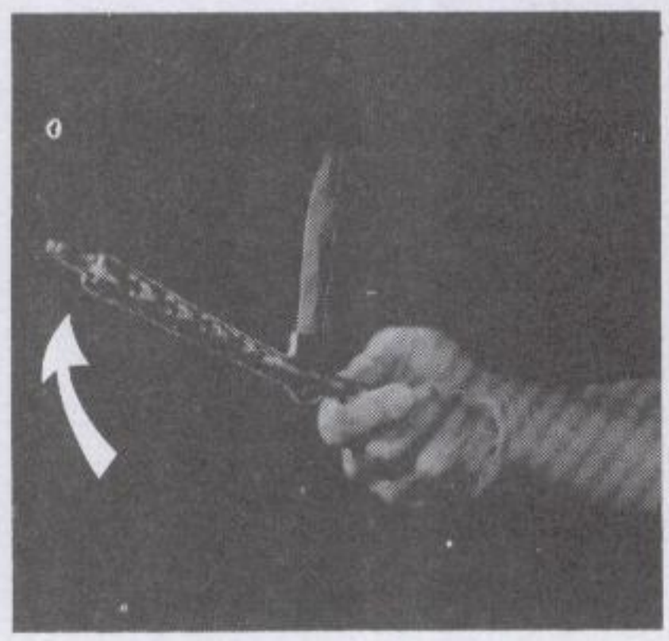

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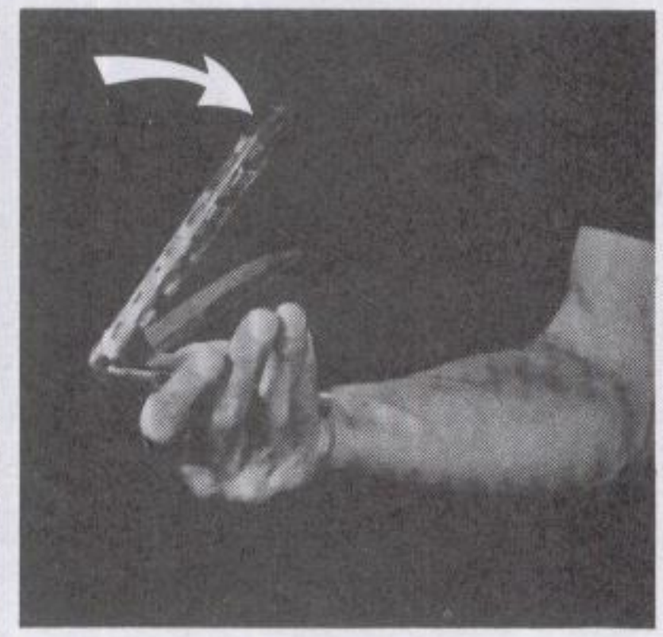


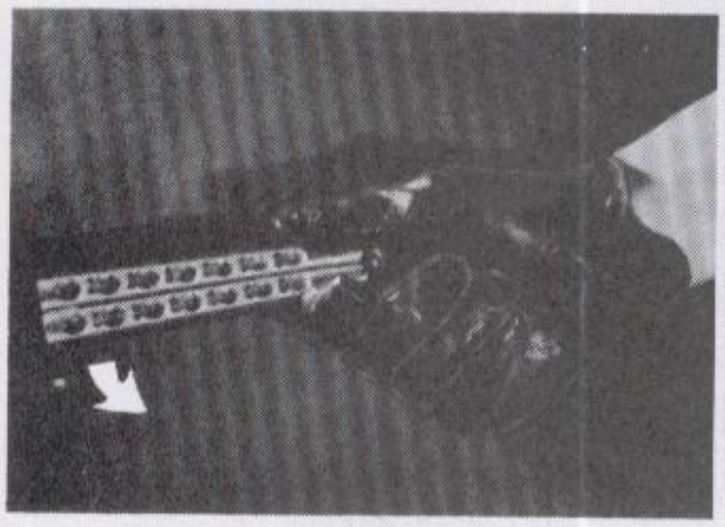
35

Retain the "safe" handle and flip the opposing handle up and over (1, 2 & 3). When the handle has traveled about 270°, turn your hand counterclockwise (not rotating knife) from a palm-up to a palm-down position (4). Turn the knife in towards you (5). With your palm down, flip the blade out and over away from you (6), by turning your palm and knife up and over (7 & 8). Just before the safe side of the blade hits the back of your index finger, change your grip by placing your middle finger on top of the safe handle. Reverse the direction of travel by finger twirling the safe handle with your index and middle fingers (9), causing the opposing handle to swing up and in (10 & 11). Make sure to keep your other fingers out of the way. As the safe handle reaches a vertical position, place your third finger next to your index finger on the open side of the handle (12). Finger twirl with your middle and third fingers, moving your index finger out of the way to continue the swing of the opposing handle up and in a second time (13 & 14). Place your index finger next to your third finger on the open side of the handle (15). Note the middle finger between the safe handle and the opposing handle. Finish the opening with a triple flip-down opening. Swing the opposing handle up and over away from your body, simultaneously placing your middle finger on the open side of the safe handle (16 & 17). When the handle has traveled about 270°, turn your hand counterclockwise (not rotating knife) from a palm-up to a palm-down position (18). Turn the tang of the knife towards you (19). With your palm down, flip the blade out and over away from you by turning your palm and knife up and over (20 & 21). When handle has traveled about 270°, turn your hand counterclockwise not rotating knife from a palm up to a palm down position. Turn the knife in towards you and flip the blade out and over away from you (22, 23, 24 & 25). Just before the safe side of the blade hits the back of your index finger (26), reverse the direction of the opposing handle and flip up and back towards you, to catch the up-coming handle (27, 28 & 29).

Go directly to a close by retaining the safe handle and flipping the opposing handle up and over (30). Just before the safe side of the blade hits your index finger (31), pull the knife to change the direction of the swing. Flip the knife in and down, turning your palm down, counterclockwise (32). Rotate your hand (only) to a palm-up position, change direction of the swing by swinging the opposing handle towards you (33 & 34). Prepare to catch the handle for the closing (35).

TOSS AND CATCH OPENING

(Before attempting this technique, tape the blade and put on a glove *and* shoes. Practice on the lawn or on a carpeted surface to prevent damage to your knife.)



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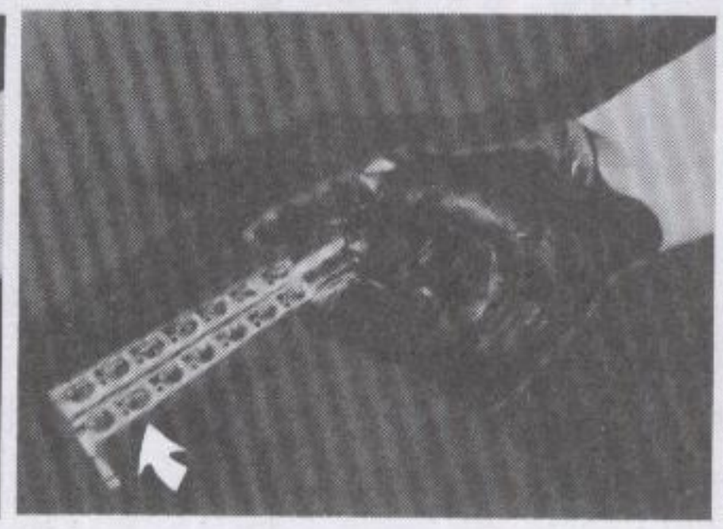

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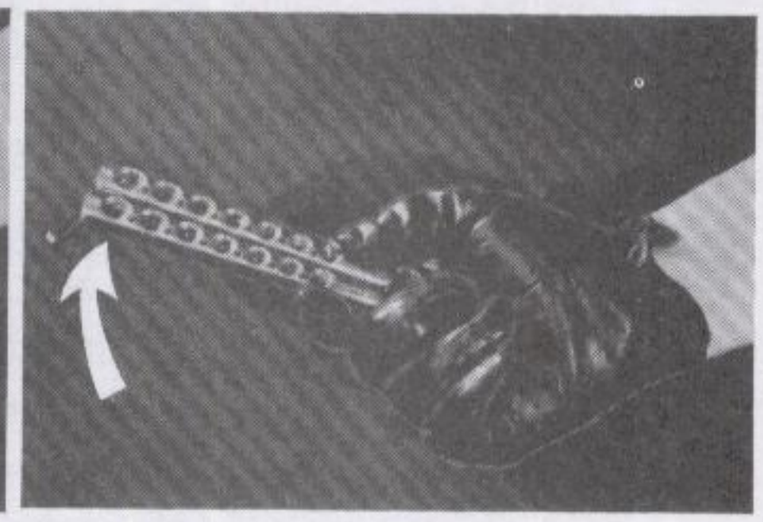

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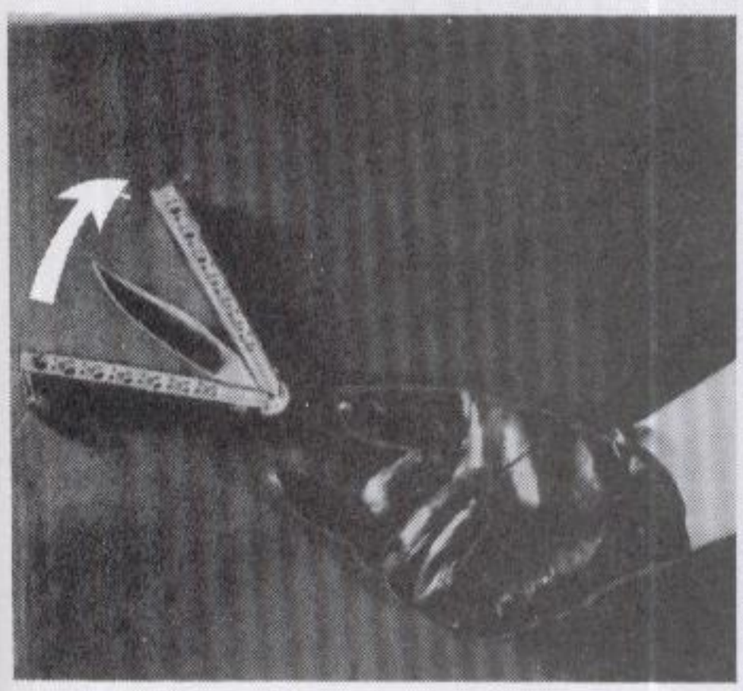

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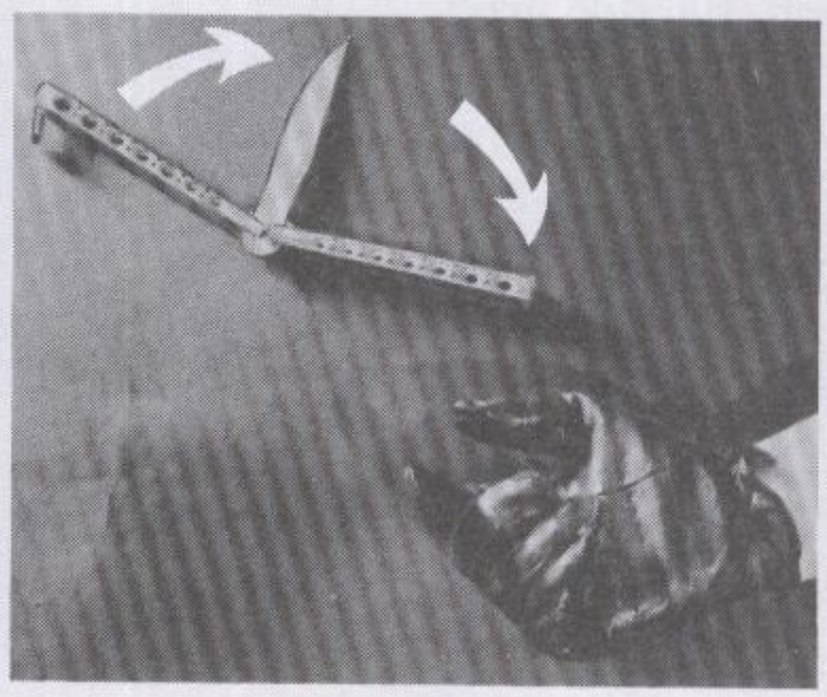

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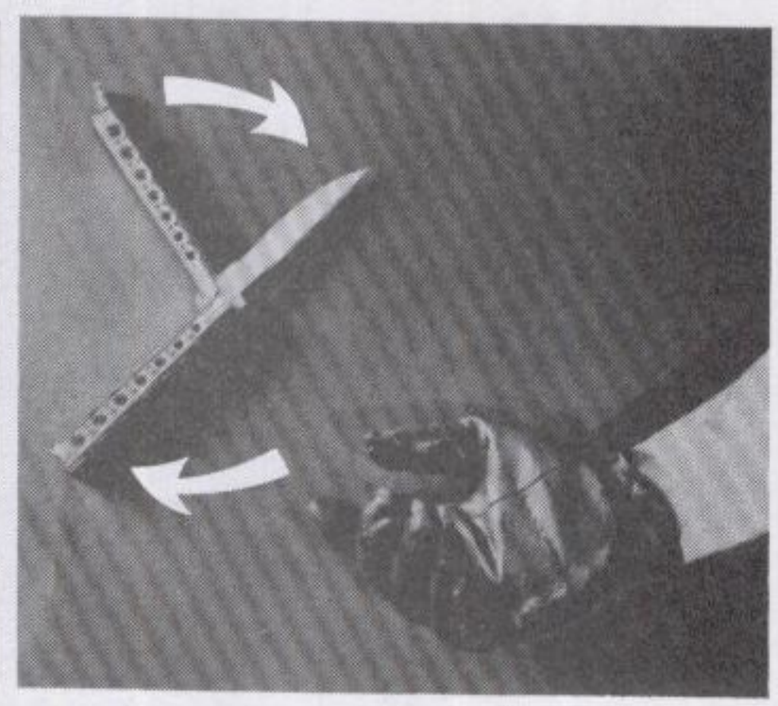

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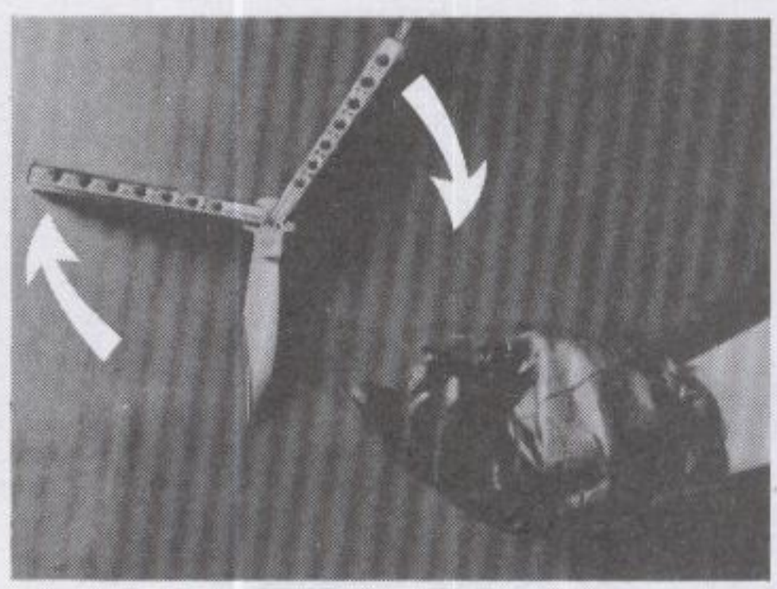

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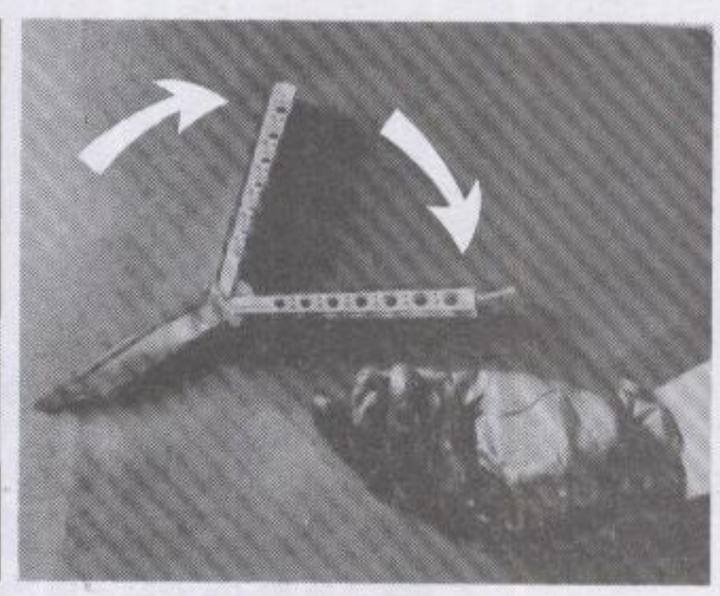

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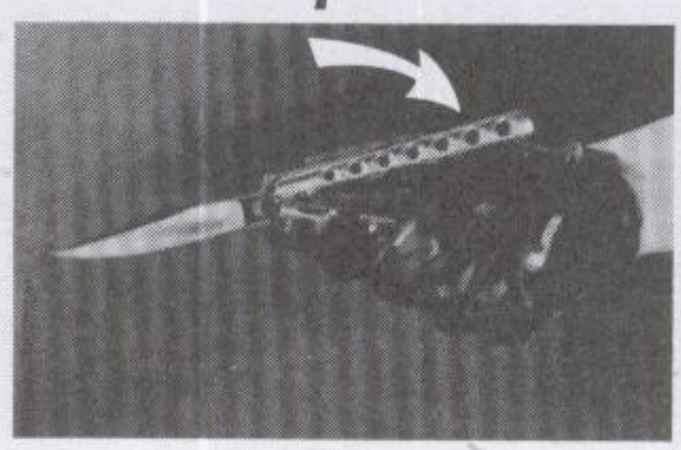

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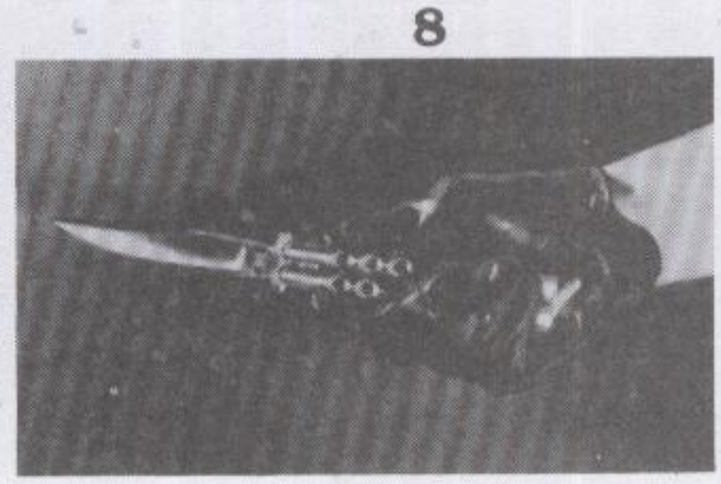

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Hold the tang end of a closed and unlatched balisong safe handle on top (1). Spin-toss the knife into the air, using wrist action (1, 2, 3 & 4). As the knife travels one revolution (5, 6 & 7), catch the handles in the open position (8, 9 & 10).

THE DETERRENT FACTOR OF A BALISONG

Pulling a balisong and manipulating it could psychologically undermine an inexperienced attacker. He doesn't know your proficiency, and this mystique can be drawn upon to gain a psychological advantage over him.

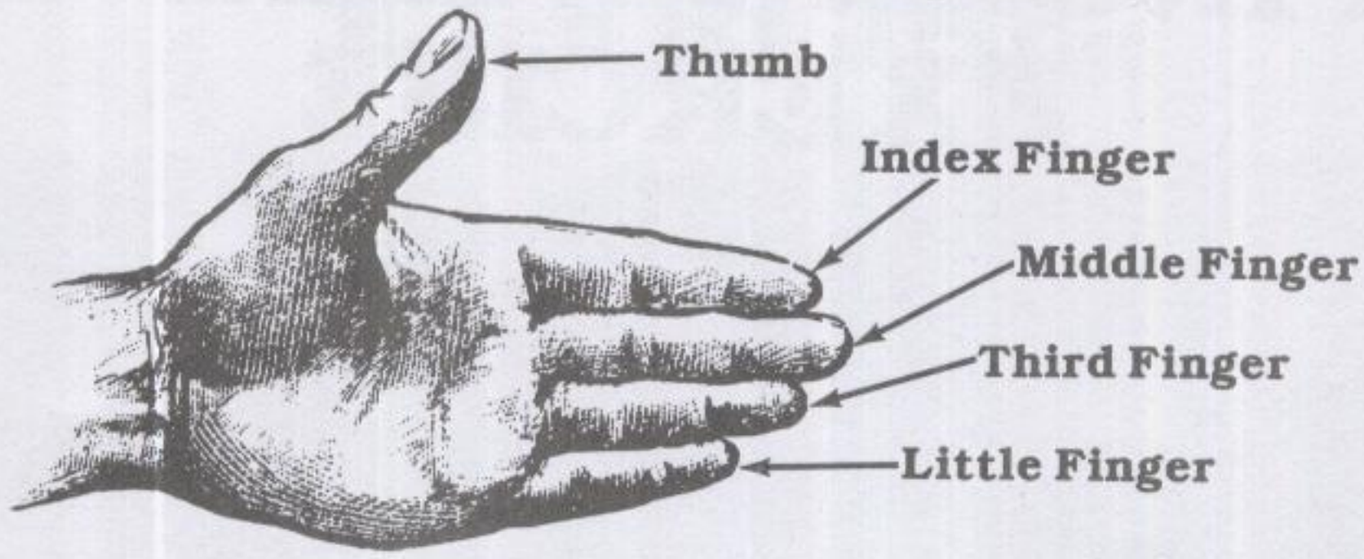
Other characteristics adding to this mystique are the size and visibility of the weapon. The larger the weapon, the greater the threat. Remember Paul Hogan in "Crocodile Dundee" when he declared, "That's not a knife, *this is a knife.*" As for visibility, a stainless steel balisong with skeletonized handles has the highest light-reflecting characteristics and can be seen even in low light. The skeleton holes further enhance the image of raw steel.

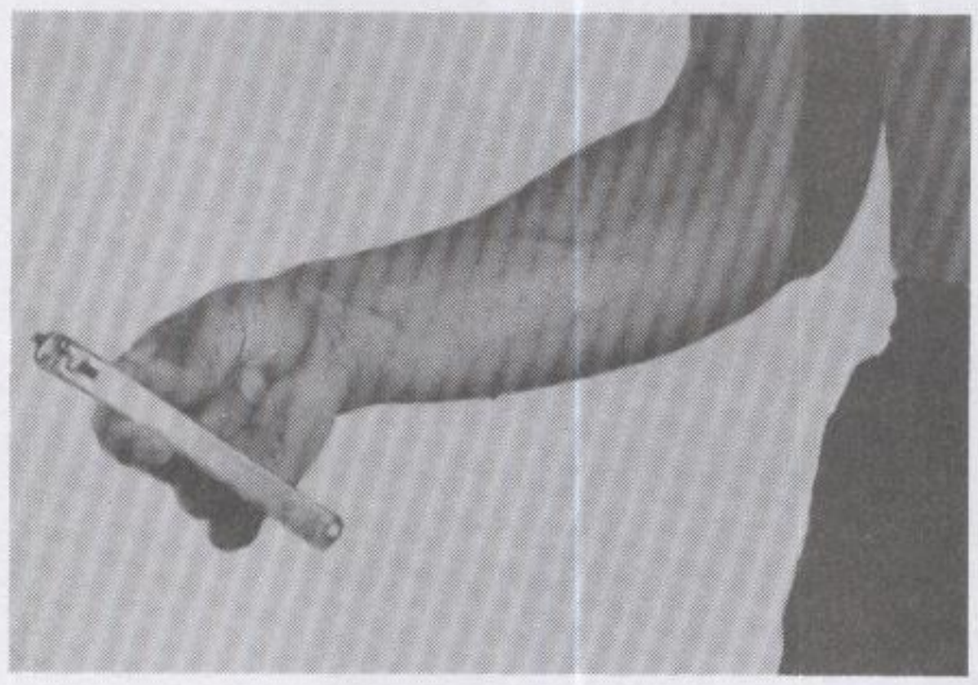
But the bottom line still rests with the man behind the weapon. If you aren't well versed in the art of knife fighting, you risk the danger of causing your attacker to call your bluff. So don't ever display your weapon unless you are ready, willing and able to use it.

OPEN KNIFE GRIP TRANSITIONS

Now that you can open and close your knife with a degree of proficiency, add to your repertoire with these open knife maneuvers. Once you've mastered the moves with your "regular" hand, use your opposite hand, then practice with both hands, simultaneously. Finally add footwork and movement to your routines.

FINGER TWIRLING EXERCISE





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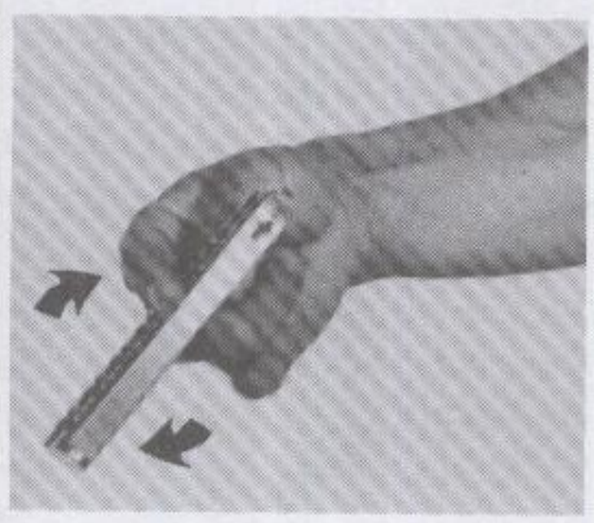

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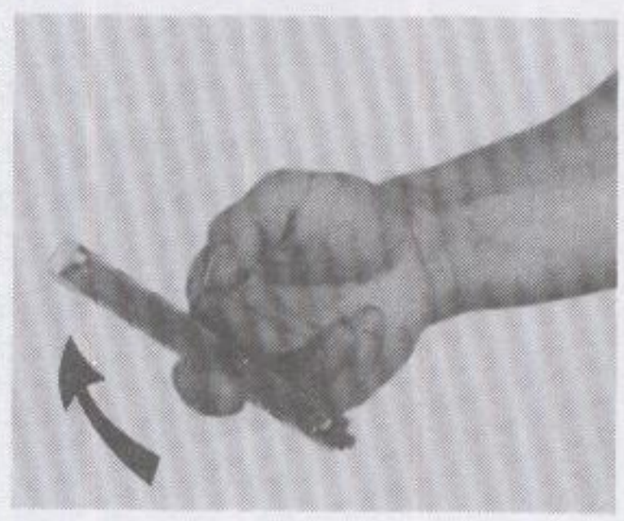

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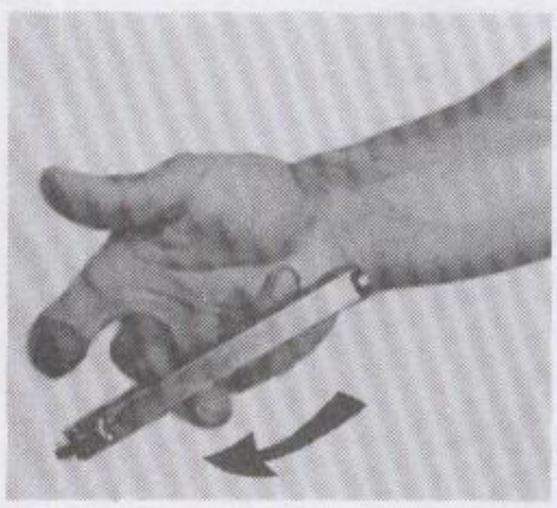

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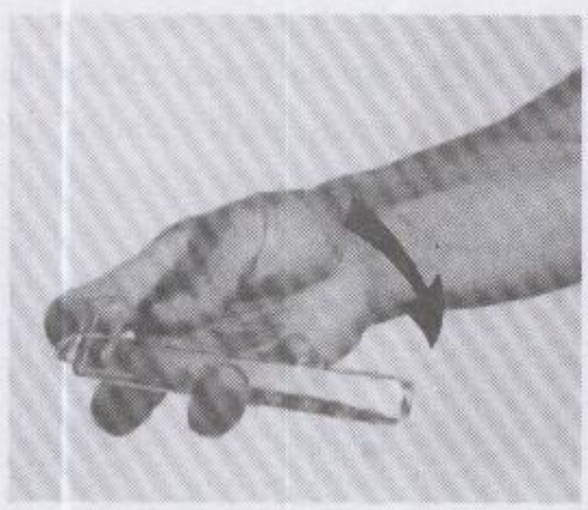

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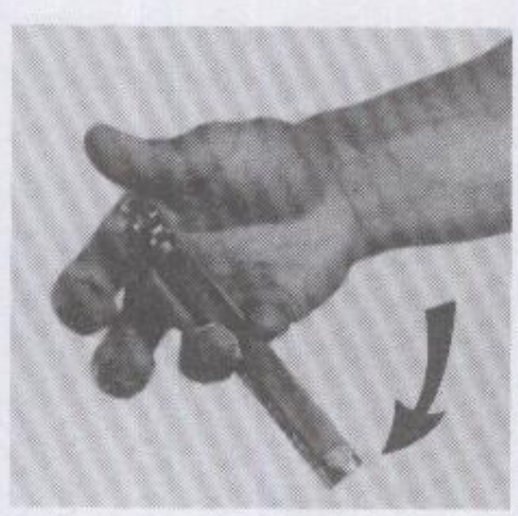

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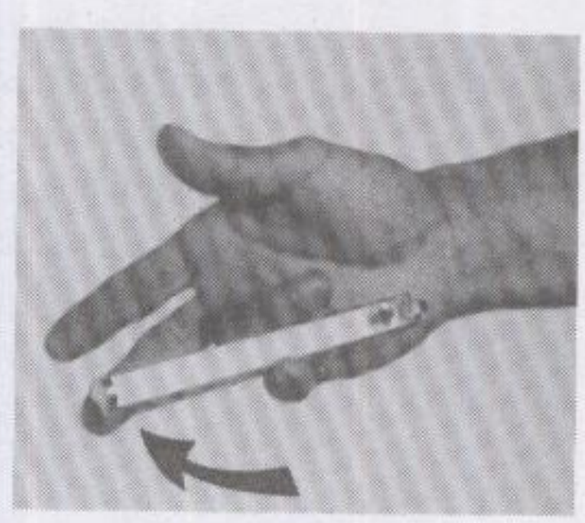

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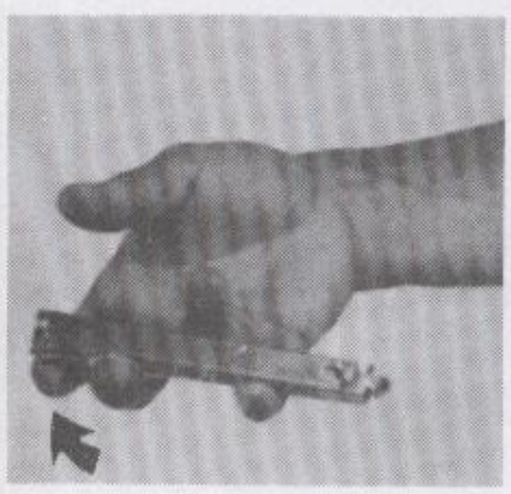

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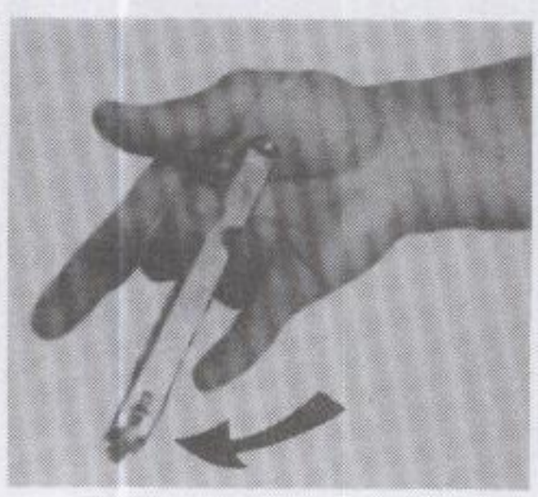

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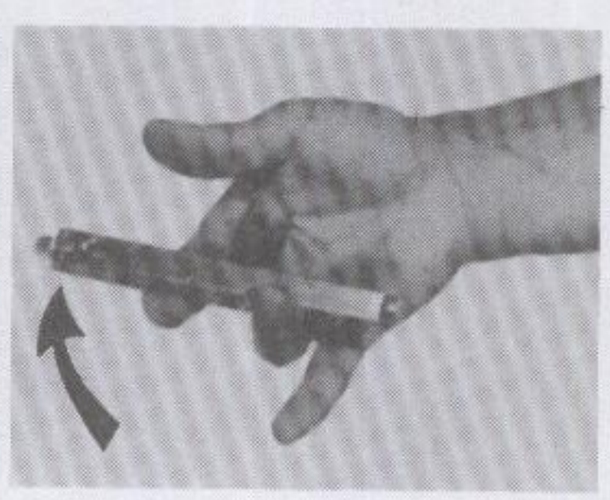

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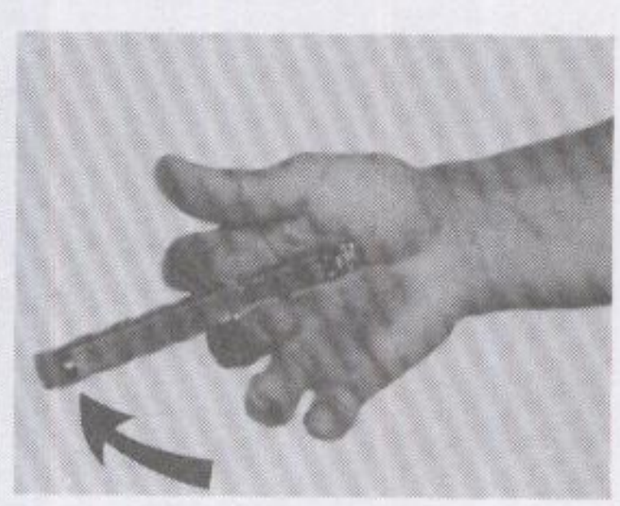

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FINGER TWIRLING EXERCISE

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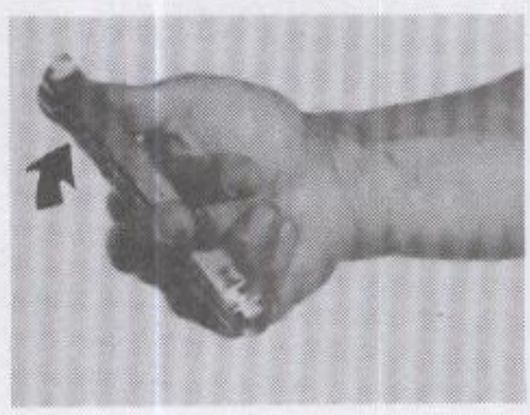

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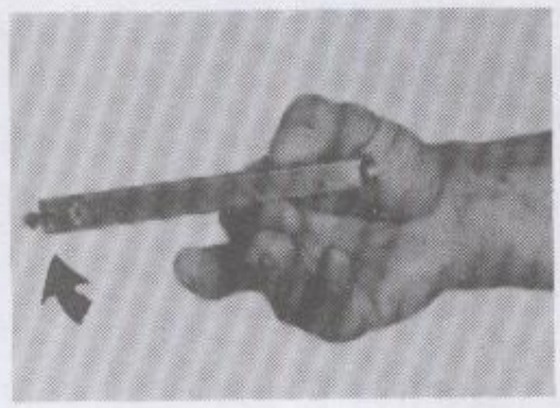

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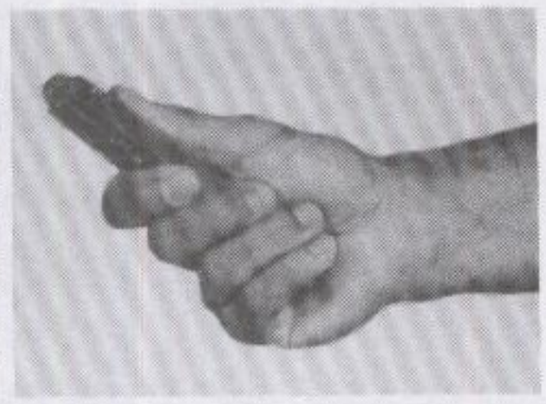

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Grip the closed knife with your index finger and thumb. Keep your other fingers closed behind the knife. Swing the tang over towards you by placing your middle finger on top of the handle and twirling (1 & 2). Move your thumb out of the way. As the tang faces you, place your third finger on top of the handle and continue twirling the knife (3 & 4). Move your index finger out of the way. As the butt faces you, place your little finger on top of the handle and continue twirling the knife (5, 6 & 7). Move your middle finger out of the way. As the tang faces you, place your middle finger underneath the handle and continue twirling the knife (8 & 9). Move your little finger out of the way. As the butt faces you, place your index finger underneath the handle and continue twirling the knife (10 & 11). Move your third finger out of the way. As the tang passes in front of you, and down, place your third finger on top of the handle and continue twirling the knife. As the butt comes over the top, place your thumb on the opposite side of the handle to continue the rotation, then pull the handle down back to the starting position (12, 13 & 14).

Between takes, martial artists Albert Leong, Bill Ryusaki, me and James Lew get a chance to compare notes.

GRIP REVERSAL EXERCISE

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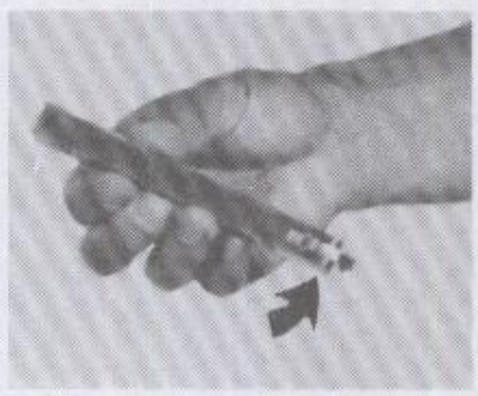
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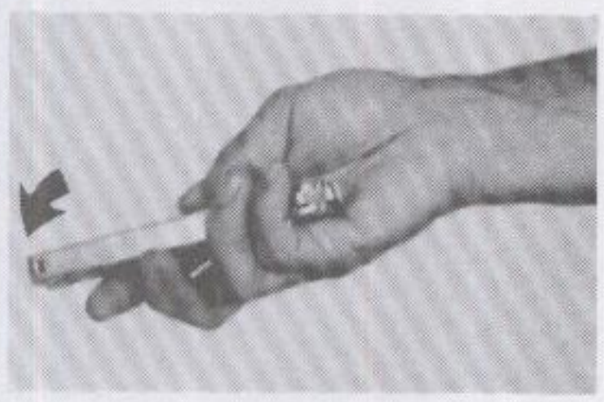
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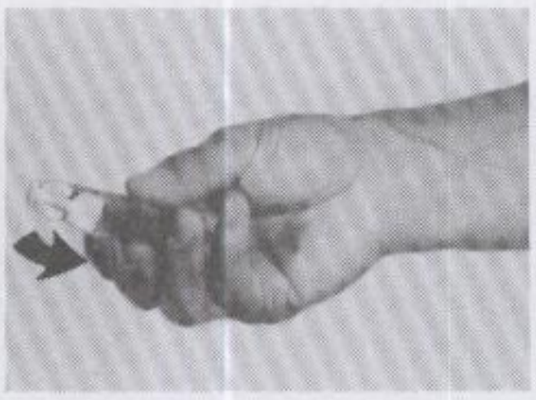
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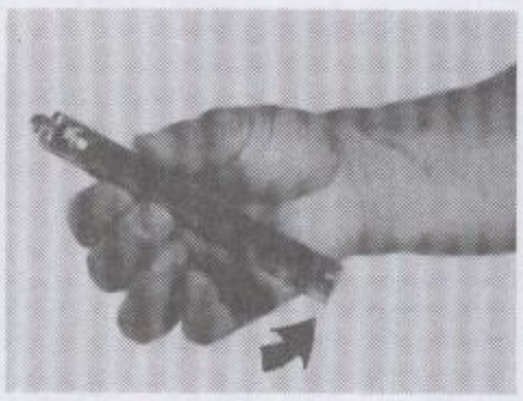
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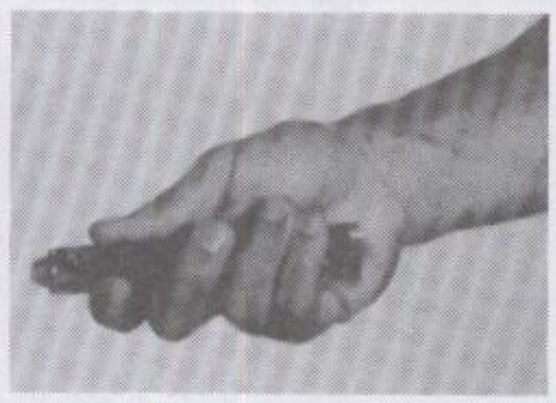
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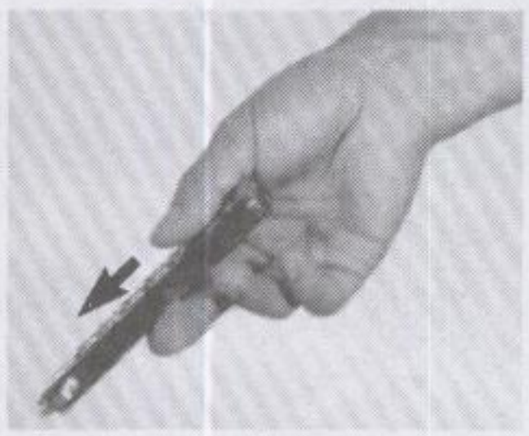
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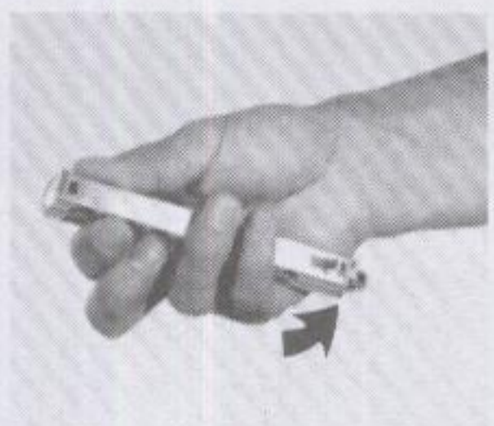
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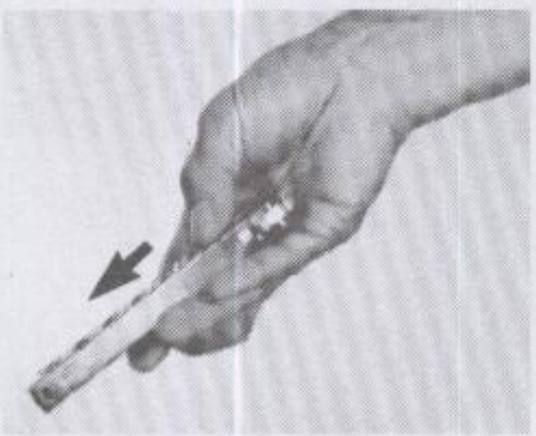
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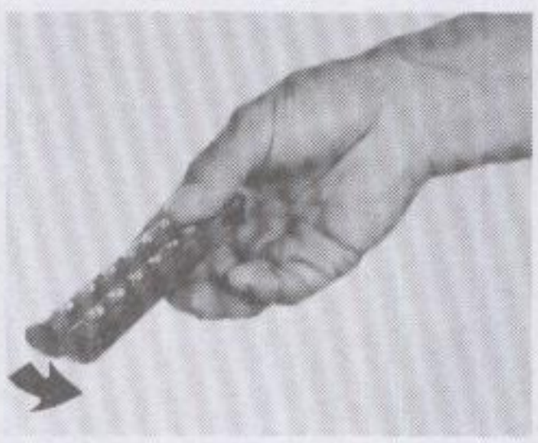
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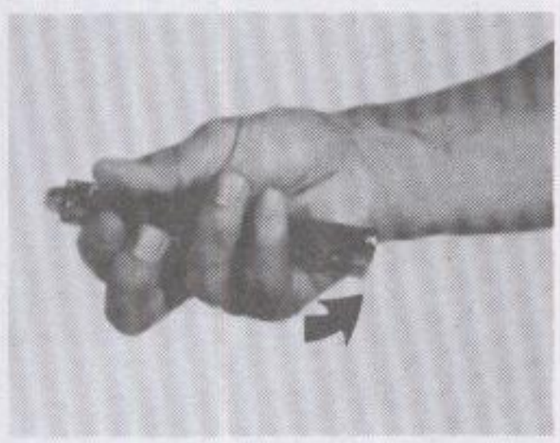
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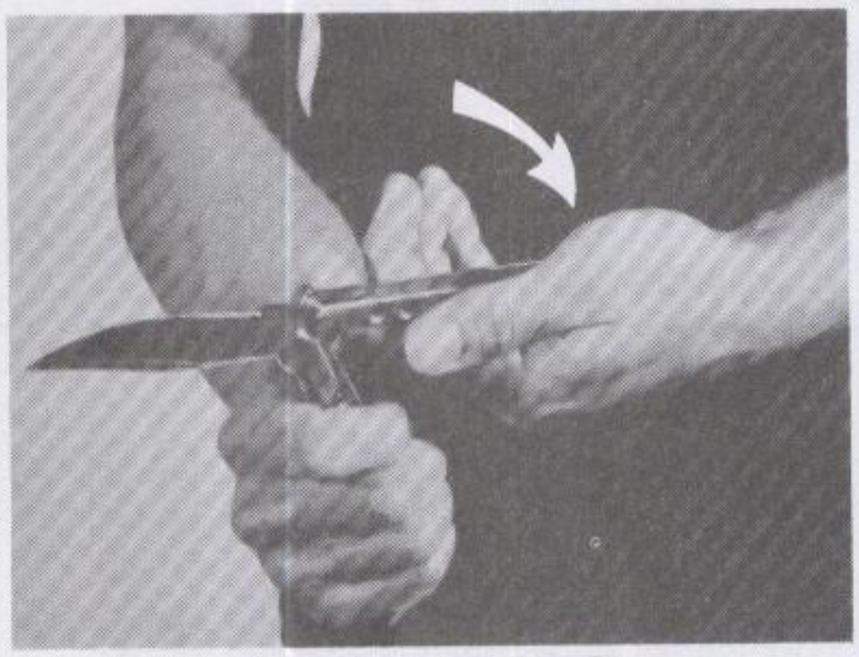
Gripping the butt end of your closed knife (1), rotate the tang end, counterclockwise, with your index finger and thumb (2). The butt of the knife is now facing forward, yielding a reverse grip (3). Slide the knife forward (4), and rotate the butt end, in a counterclockwise direction, with your index finger and thumb until it reaches your palm (5 & 6). You are now back in the original tang forward position (7). Slide the knife forward (8), and repeat the entire process (9, 10, 11, 12 & 13). Repeat this exercise until you can continually perform it at a very fast pace, with either hand.

CHANGING HANDS

Here are a few transition points for changing hands during manipulation.

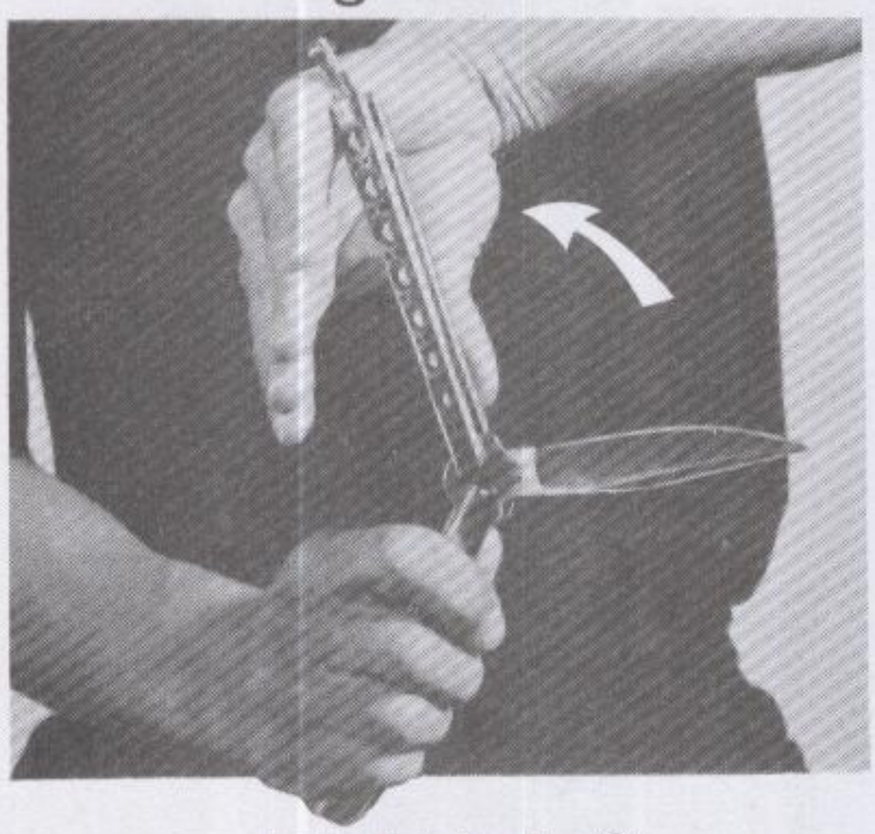


Right to Left

Left to Right

Right to Left

Left to Right



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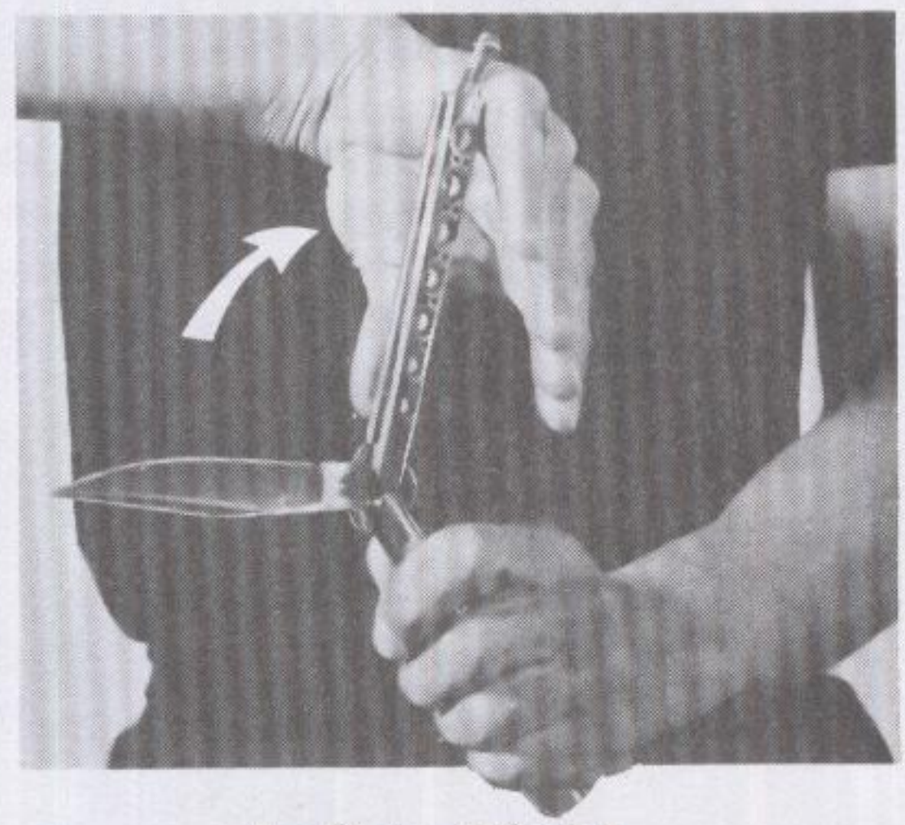
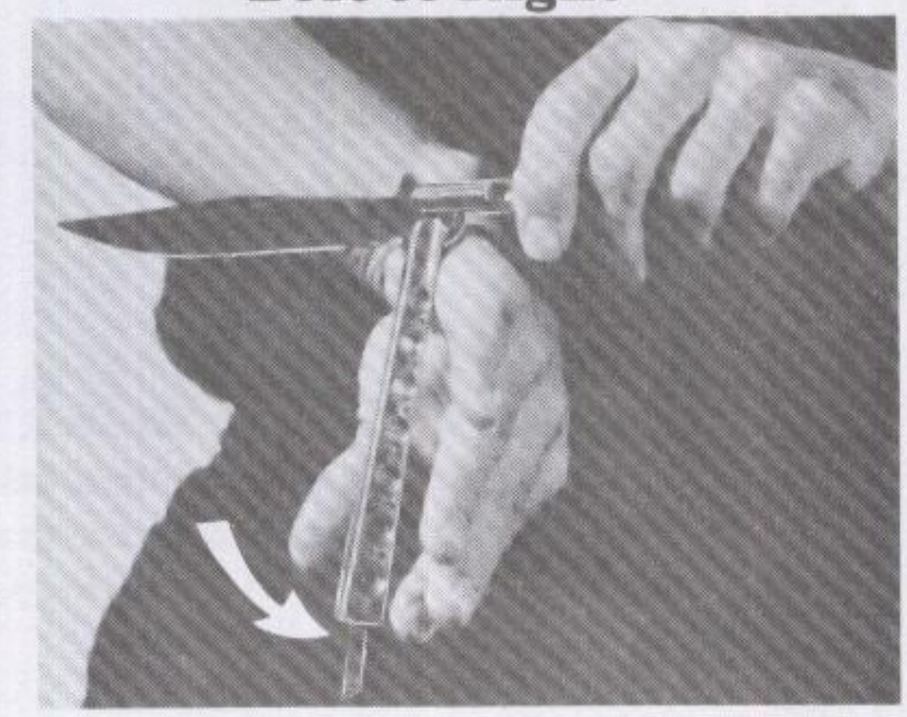


Left to Right

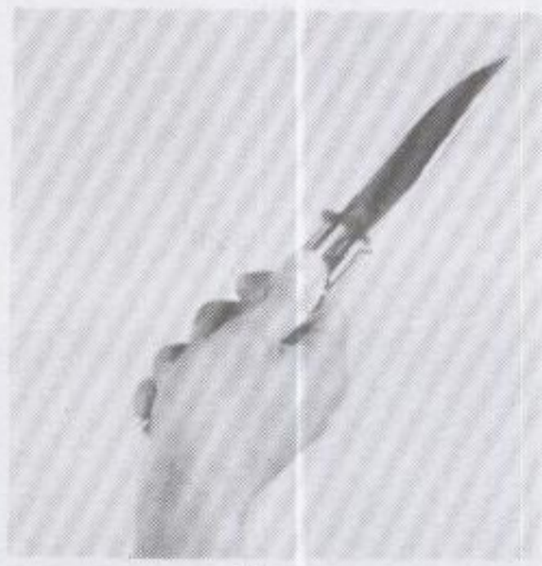
Right to Left



Left to Right

GRIP CHANGES

Foil to Ice-Pick and Back (upper body)



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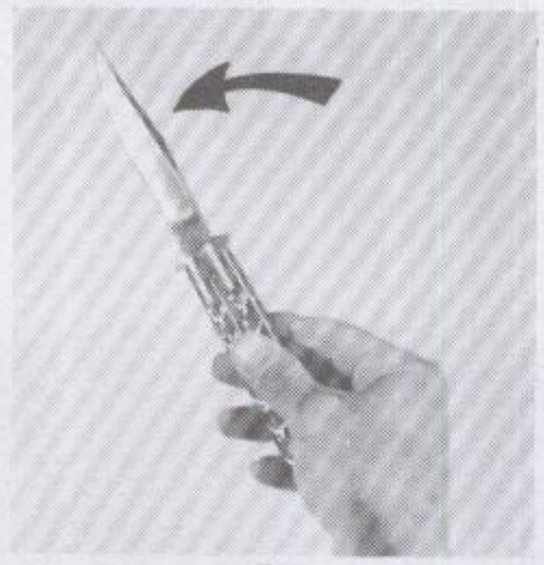

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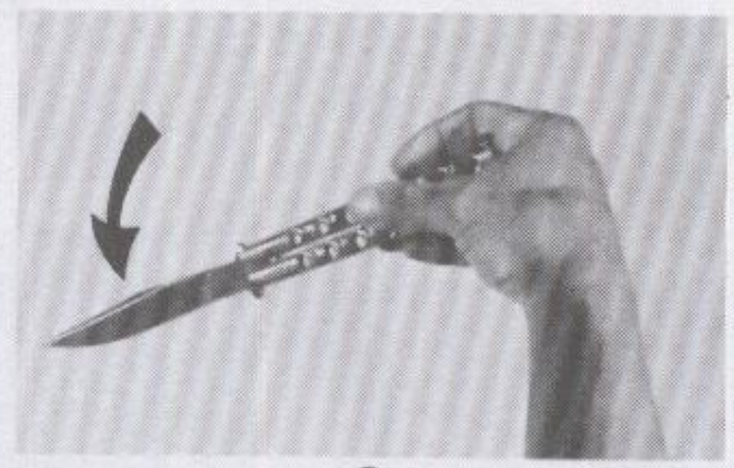

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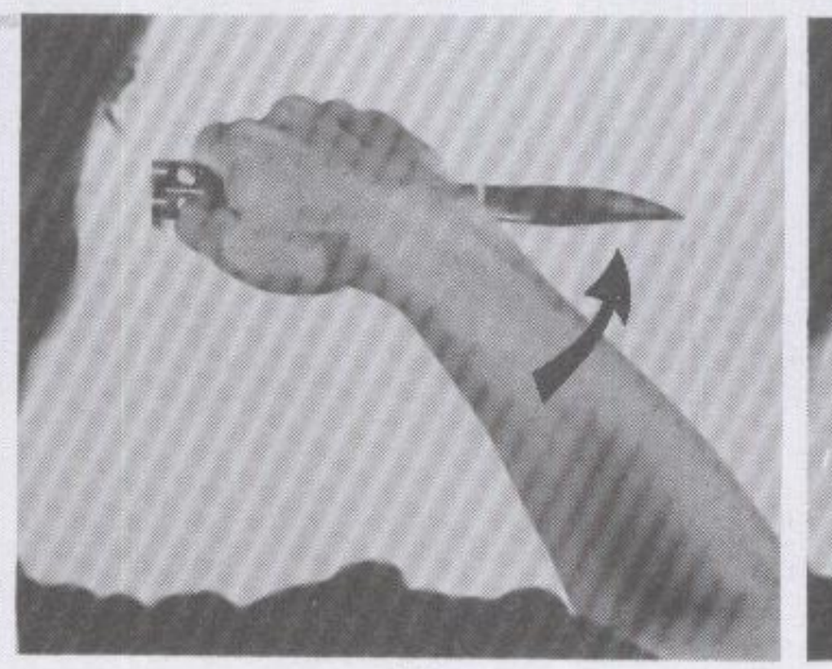

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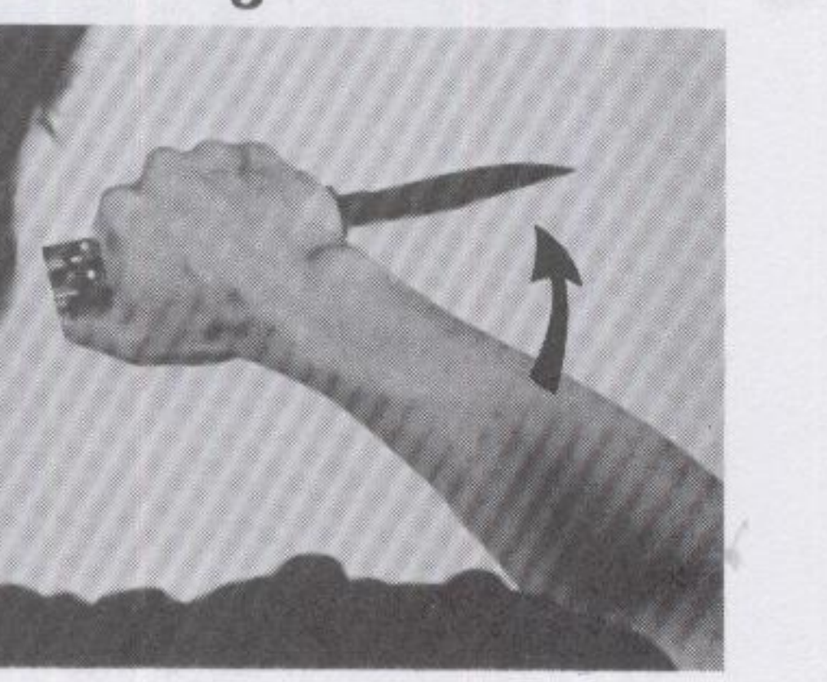

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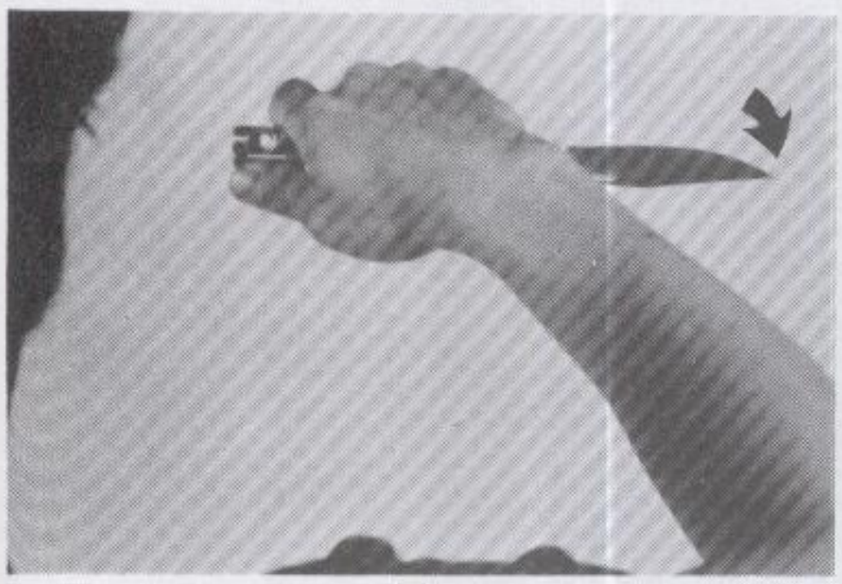

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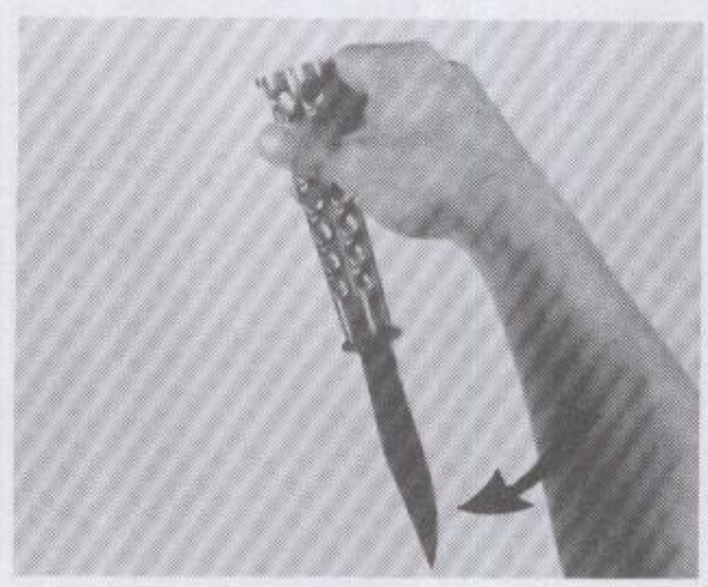

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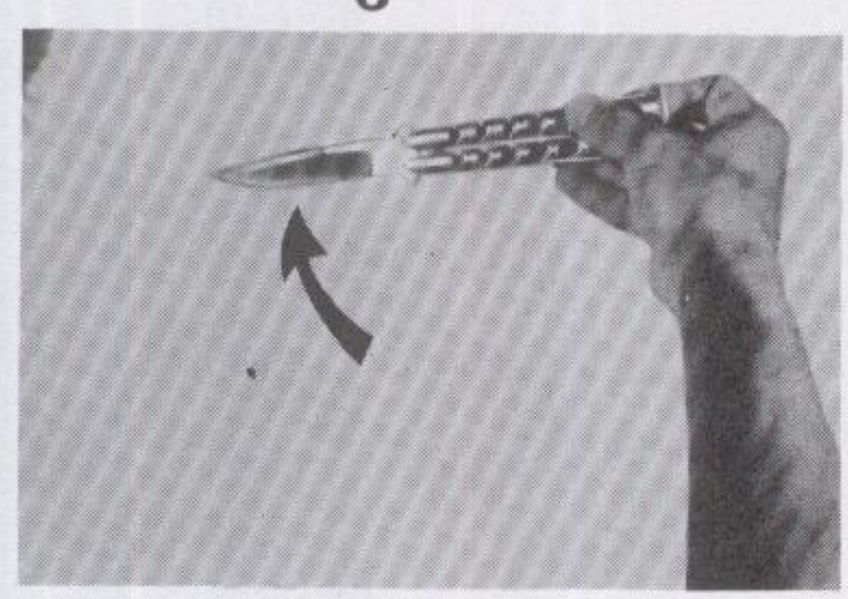

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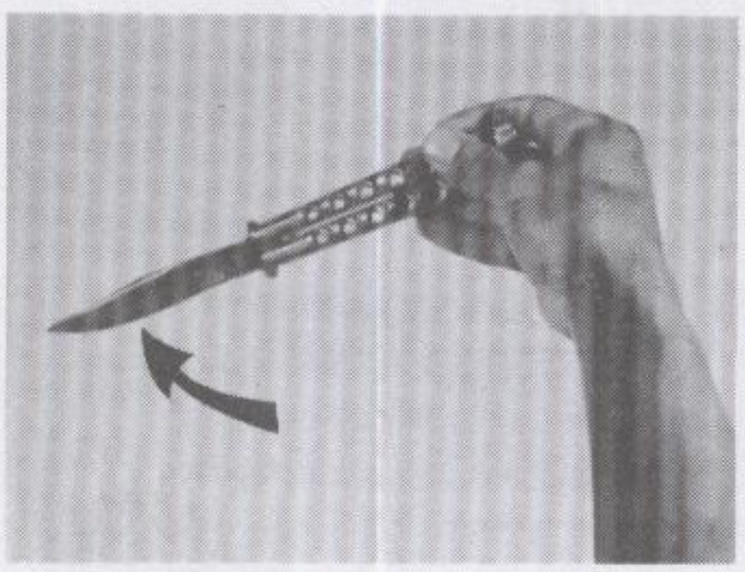

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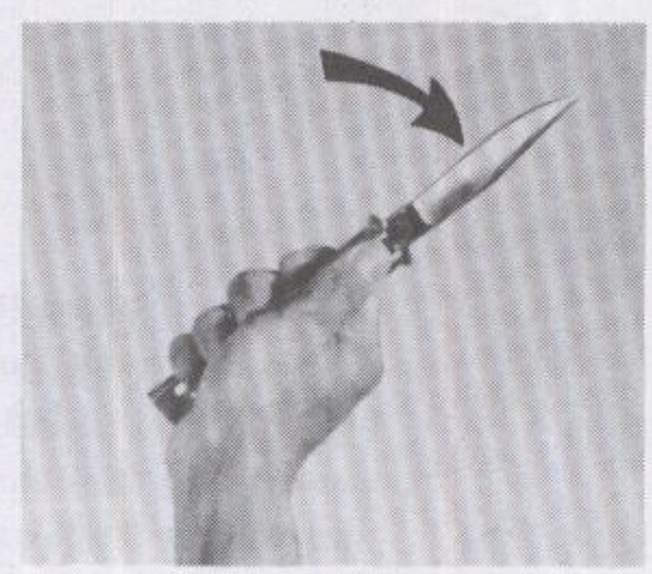
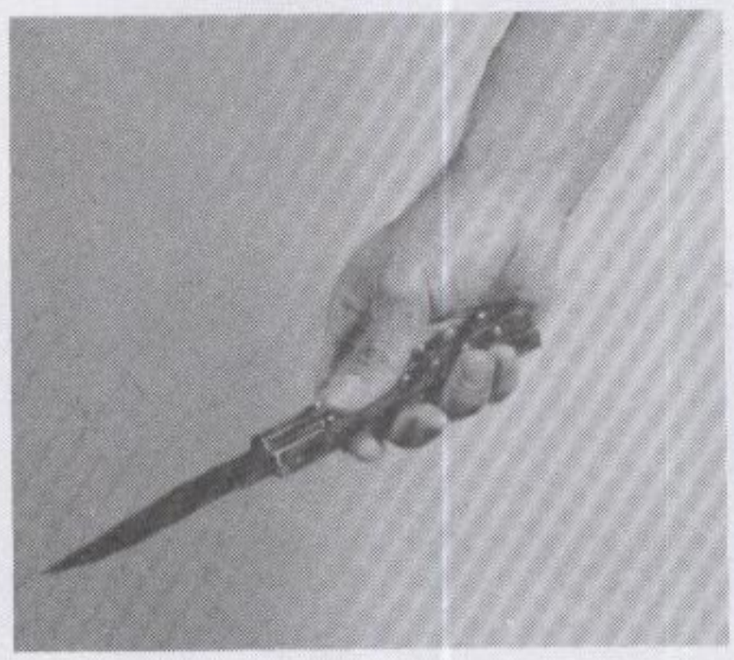


12

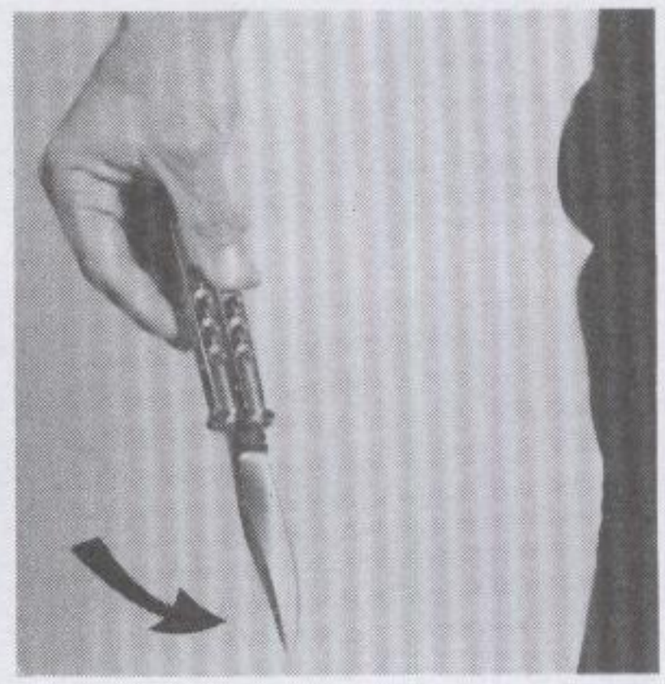
From a foil grip, rotate your knife in a counterclockwise direction with your thumb, index and/or middle finger to an edge-out, ice-pick grip (1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6). From the ice-pick grip, rotate your knife in a clockwise direction with your thumb, index and/or middle finger back to a foil grip (7, 8, 9, 10, 11 & 12).

GRIP CHANGES

Foil to Ice-Pick (lower body)



1



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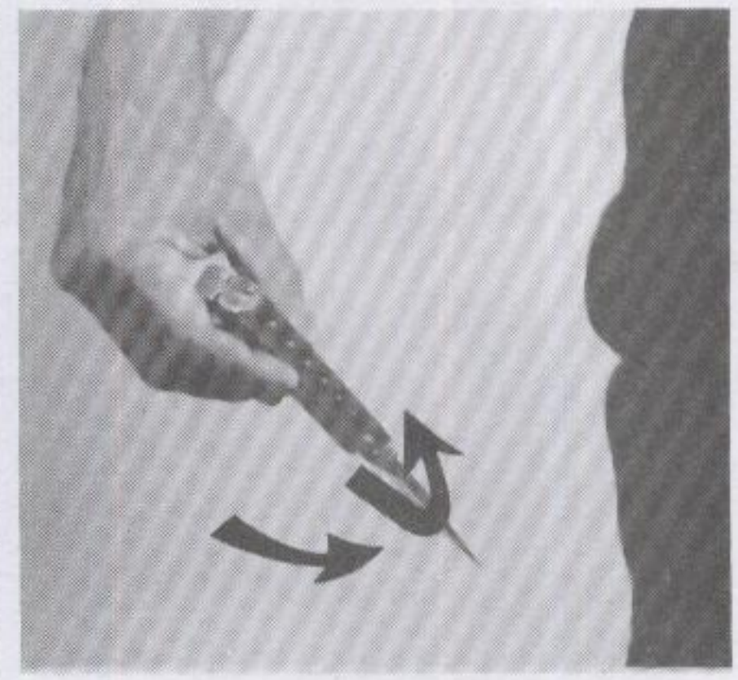

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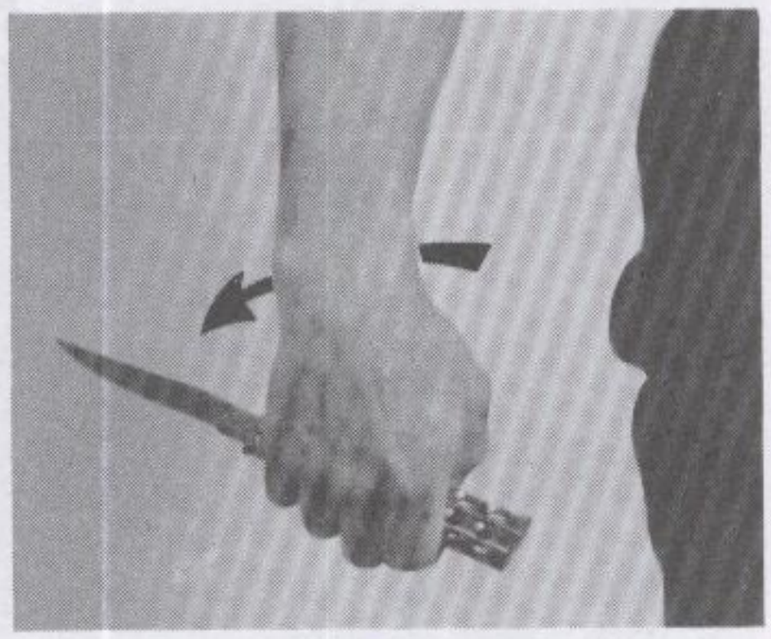

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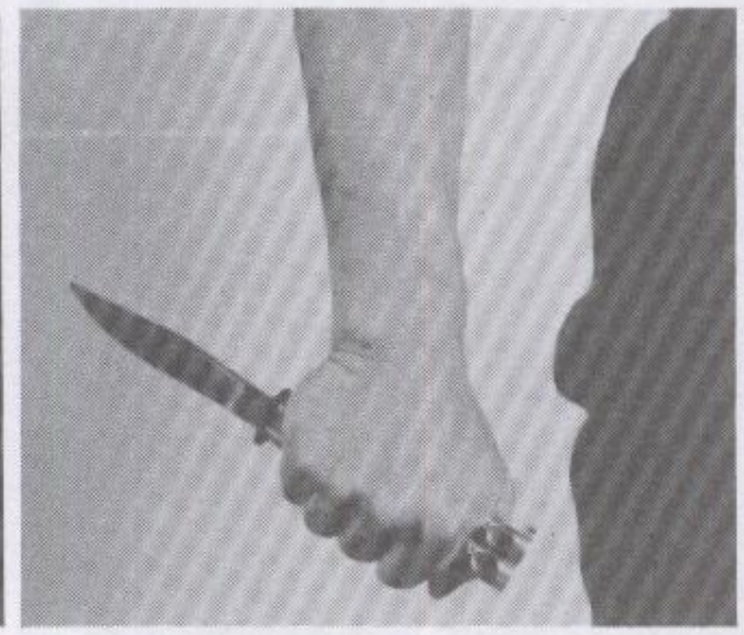


5

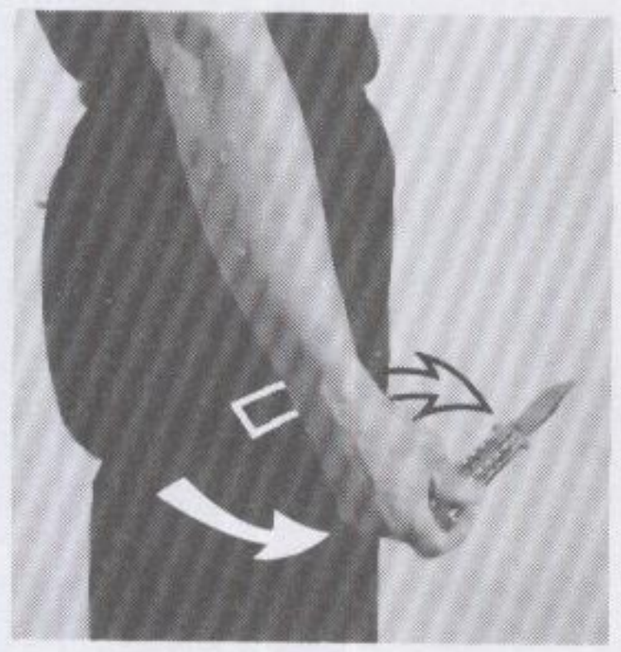
From an edge-in foil grip, rotate your knife in a counterclockwise direction with your thumb, index and/or middle finger to a cutting-edge-out, ice-pick grip (1, 2, 3, 4 & 5).

GRIP CHANGES

Ice-Pick (edge-in) to a Foil Grip (edge-in)

1

2



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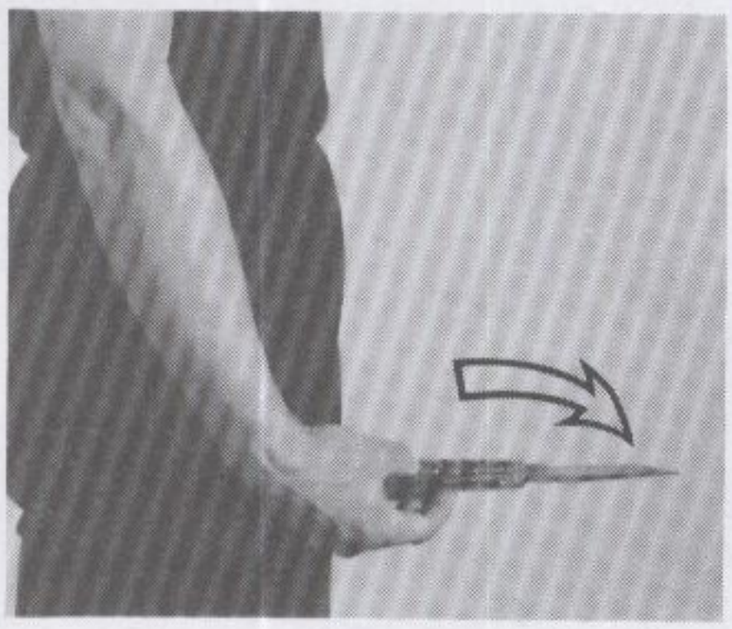

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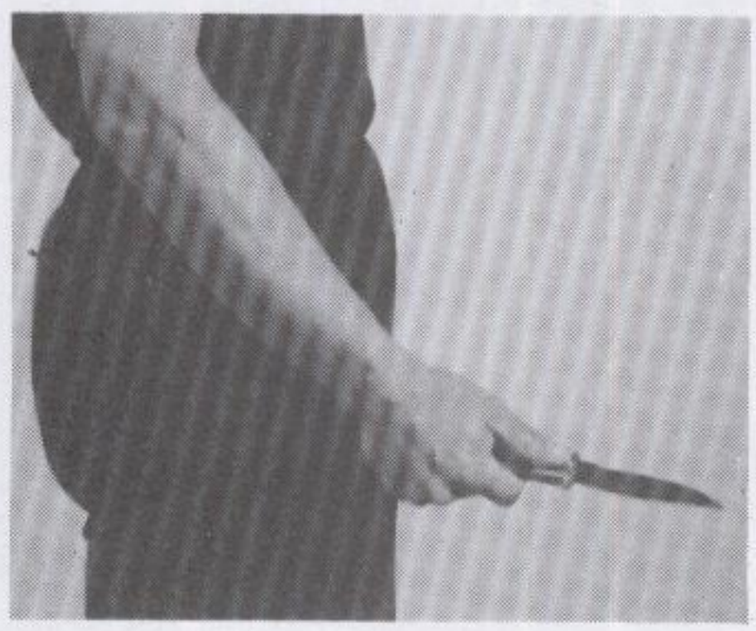
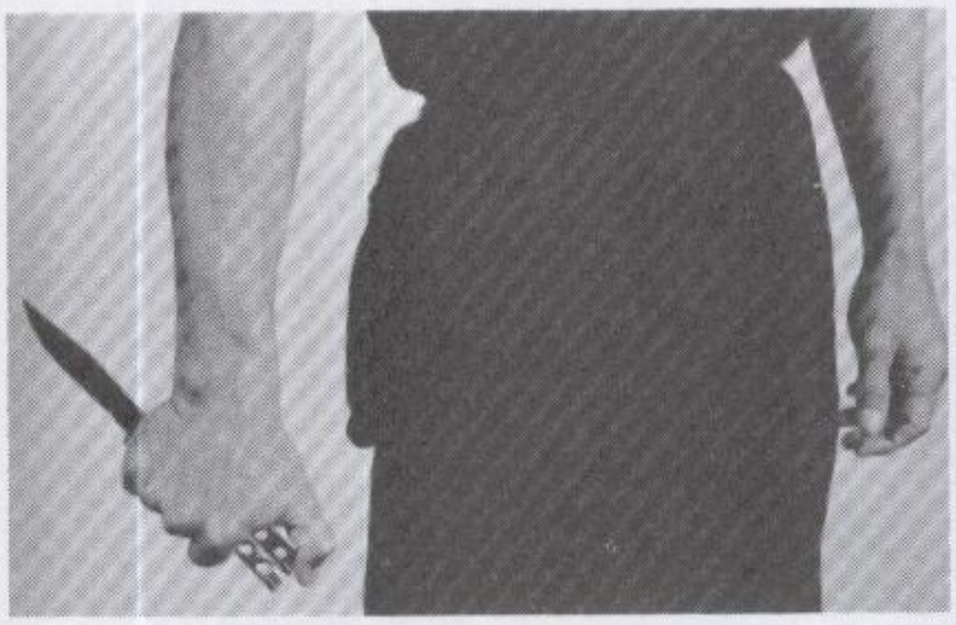


5

Starting from a modified (edge-in) ice-pick grip (1), drop the tip of your knife and rotate the handle with your fingers one-quarter turn in a counterclockwise direction (2). With your thumb, index and/or middle finger, swing the knife around and out in a clockwise direction (3). As the knife faces forward, grasp the handle to end up in an edge-in foil grip (4 & 5).

GRIP CHANGES

Modified Ice-Pick (edge-in) to a Foil Grip (edge-in)



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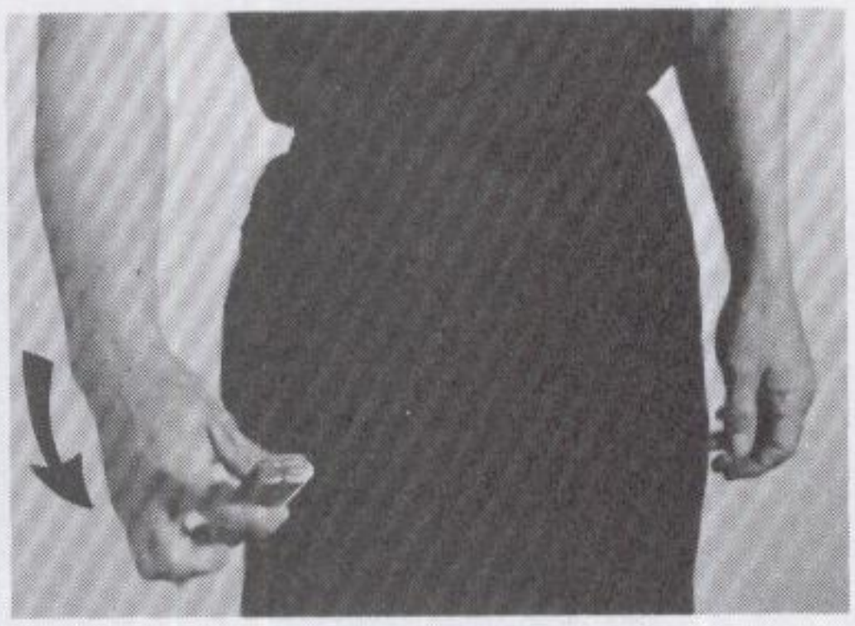

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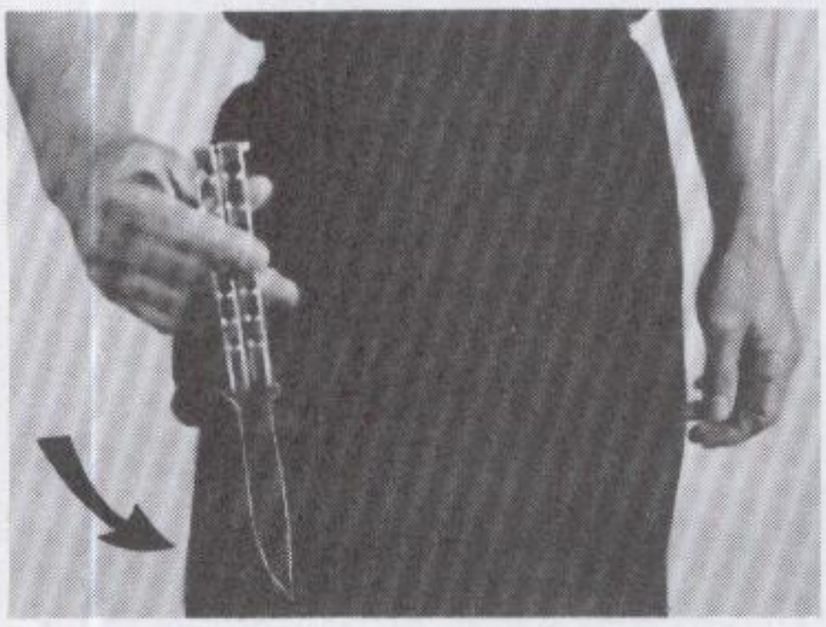

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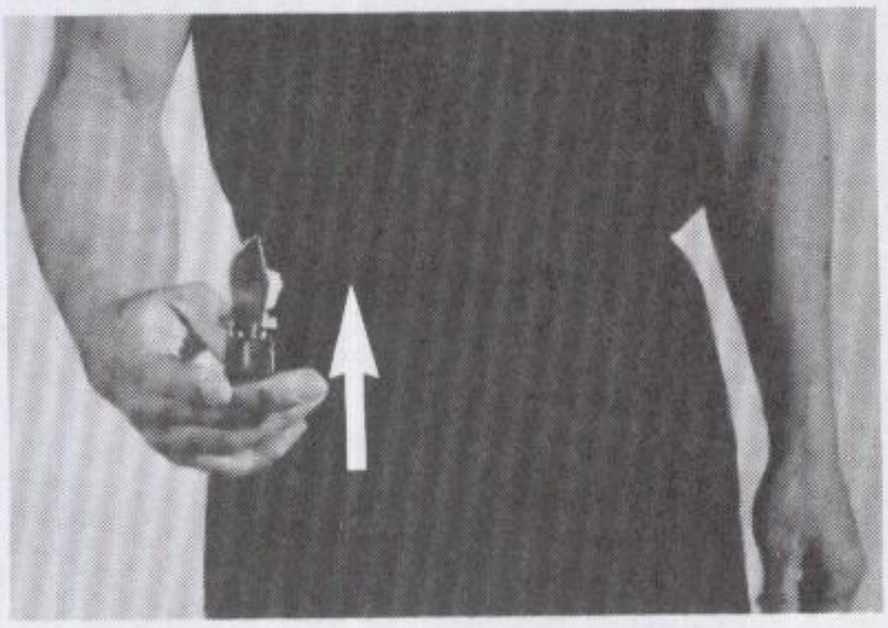


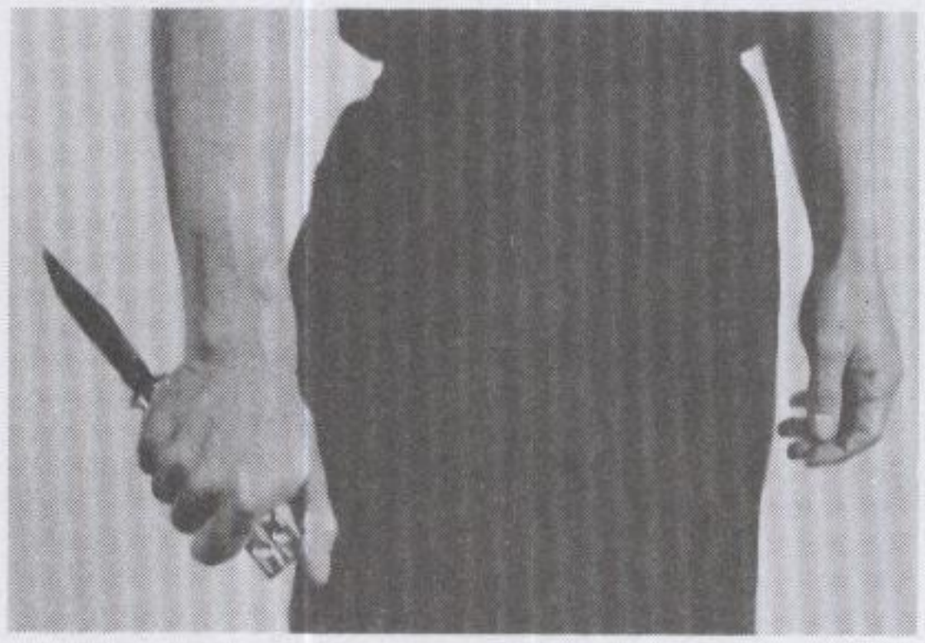
4

5

Starting with a modified (edge-in) ice-pick grip (1), drop the tip of your blade down and swing it forward and up (2). Place your middle finger behind the handle (handles are now between your index and middle fingers) and continue the upward motion. Use your thumb to continue the rotation (3 & 4). Grasp the knife with all your fingers to end up with an edge-in foil grip (5).

GRIP CHANGES

Modified Ice-Pick (edge-out) to a Foil Grip (edge-in)



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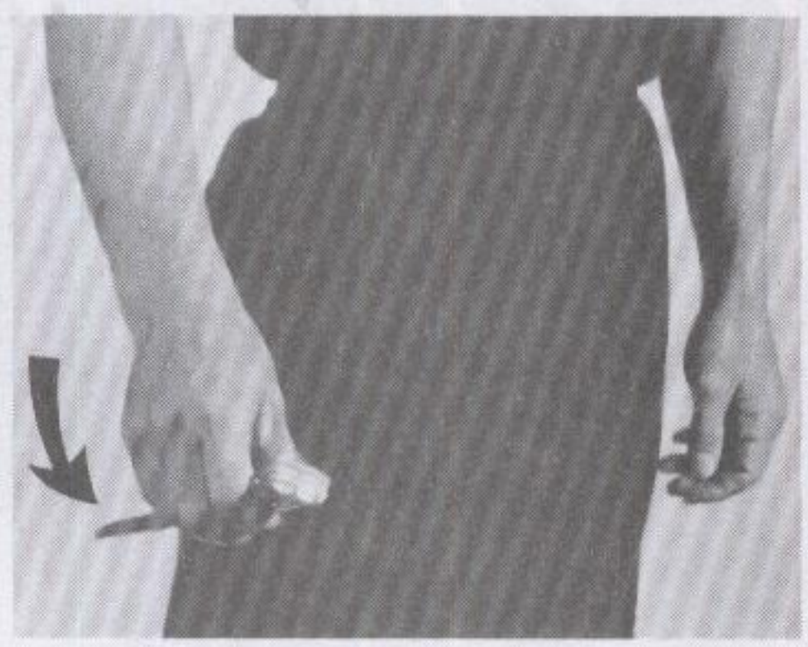

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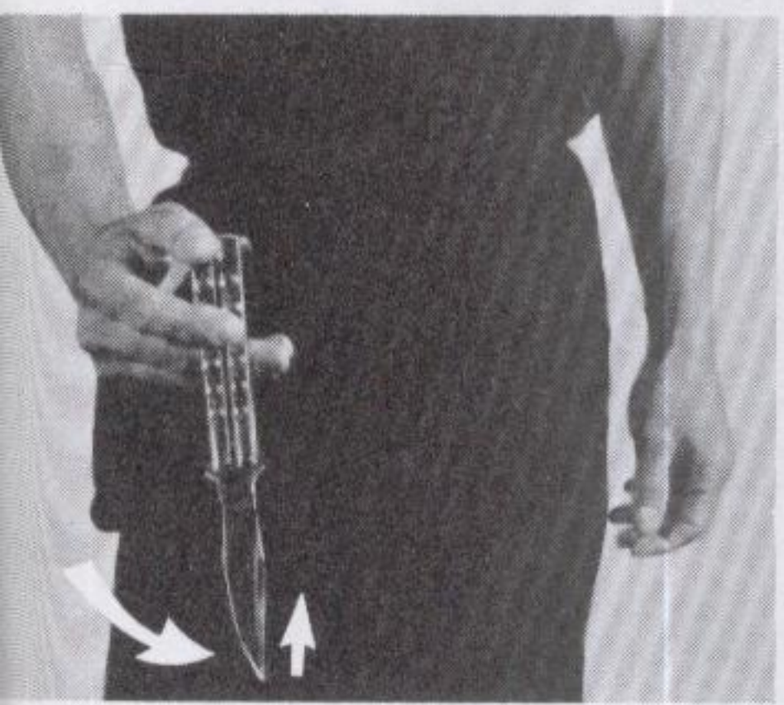

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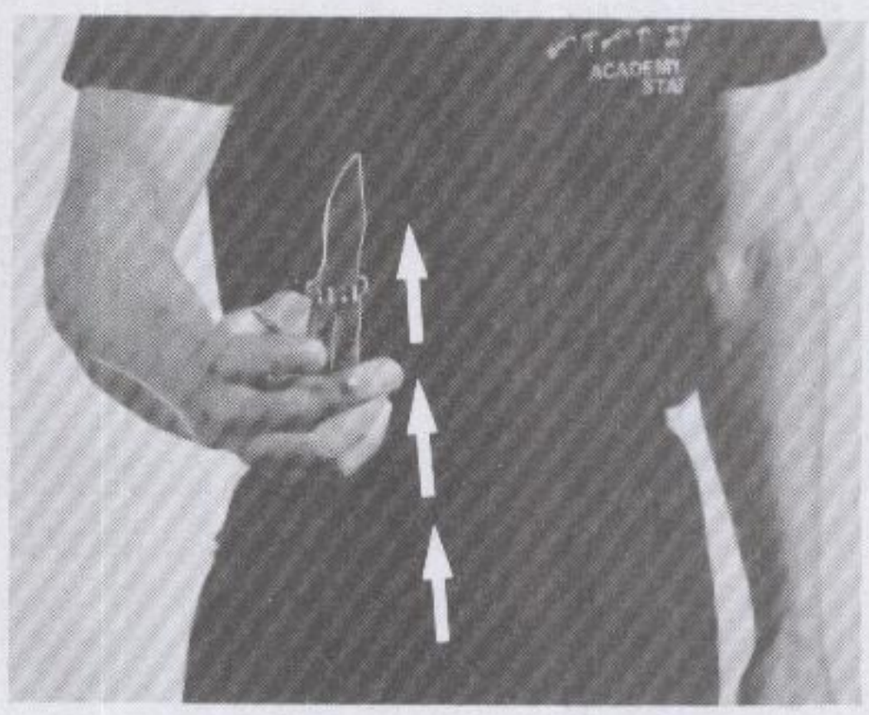

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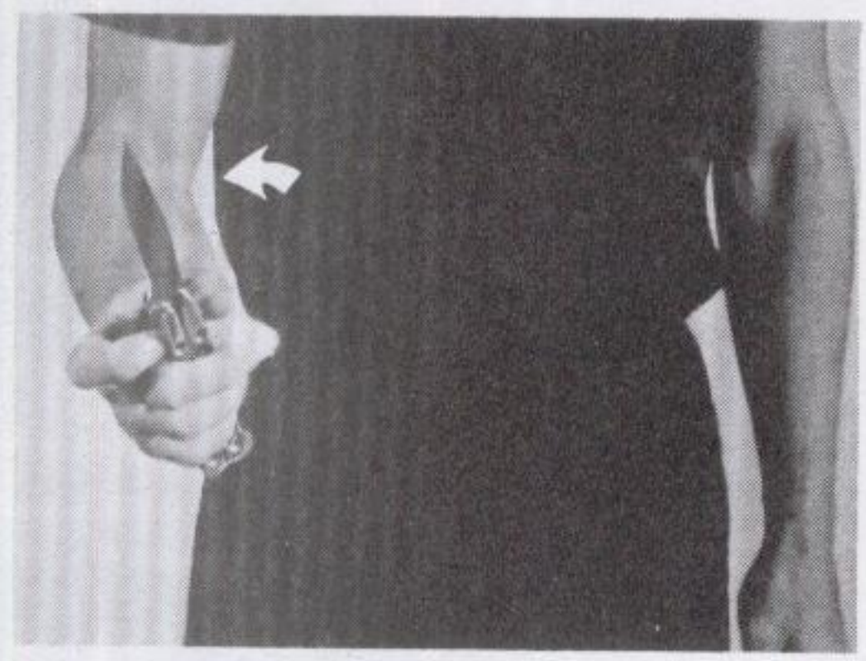

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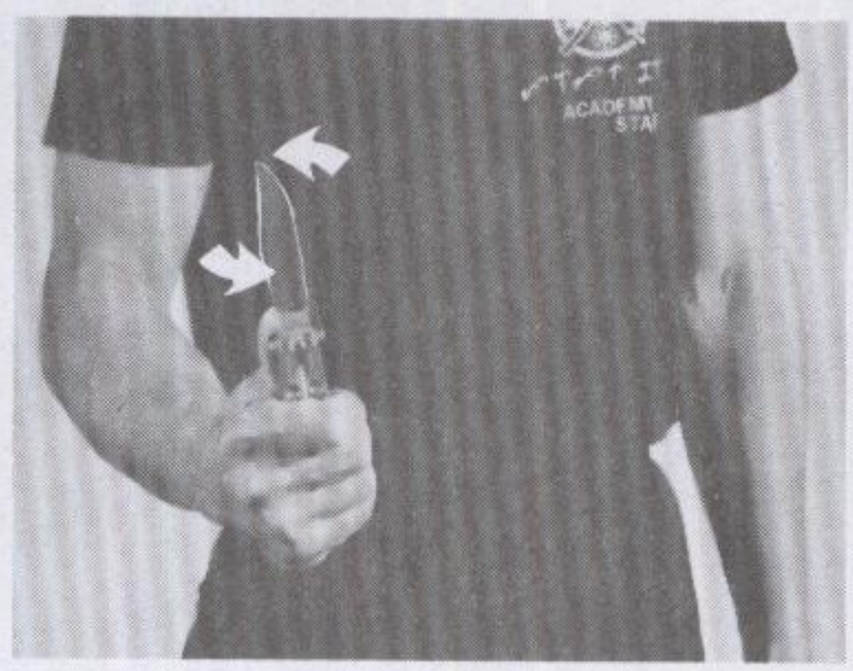
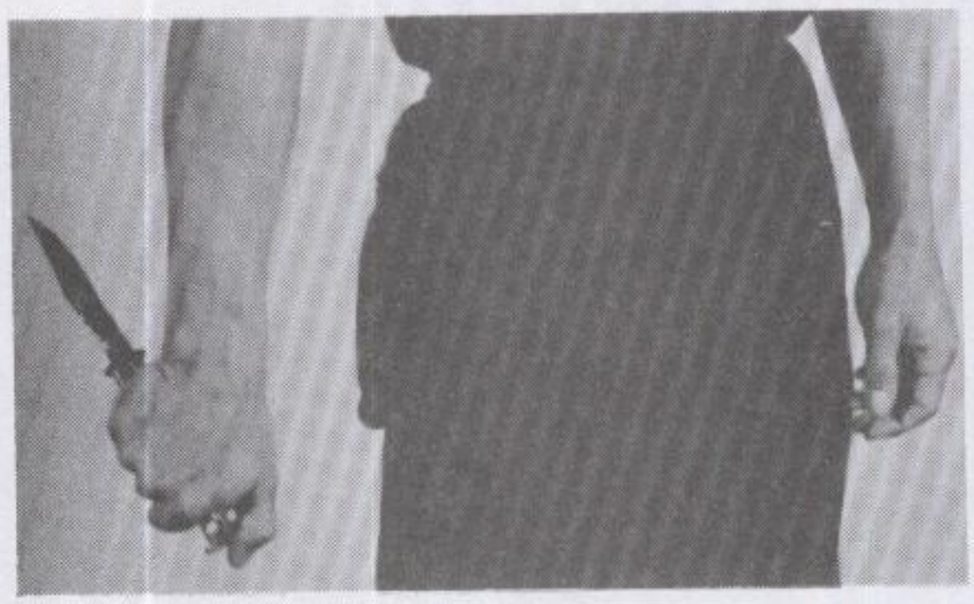


7

From a modified (edge-out) ice-pick grip (1), drop the tip of the blade down and swing it forward and up (2). Place your middle finger behind the handle (handles are now between your index and middle fingers) and continue the upward motion. Use your thumb to continue the rotation (3 & 4). Grasp the (edge-out) knife (5), and rotate the handle 180°, counterclockwise, for a (edge-in) foil grip (6 & 7).

GRIP CHANGES

Modified Ice-Pick (edge-in) to a Foil Grip (edge-out)



1

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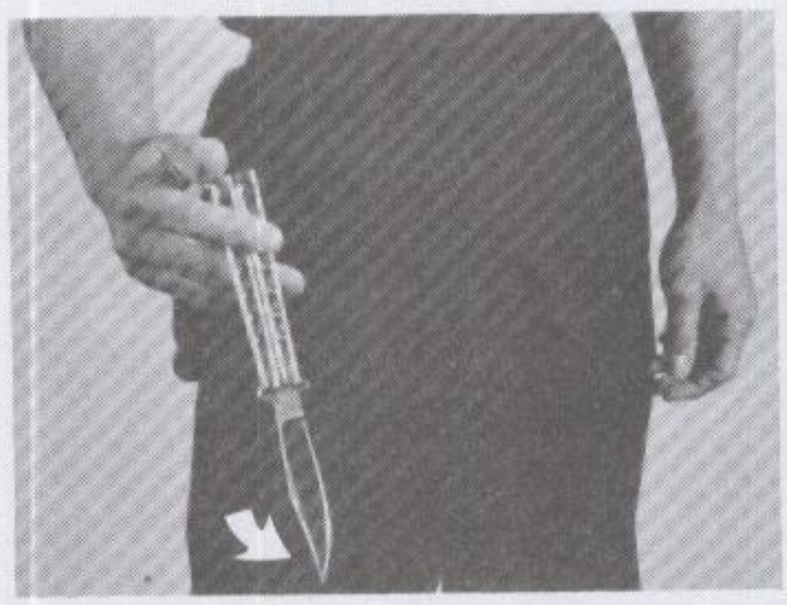

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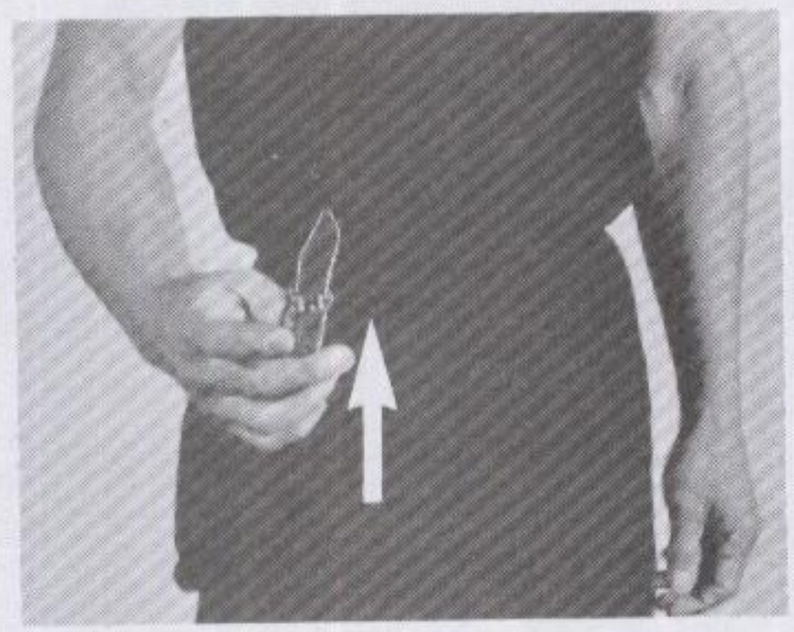

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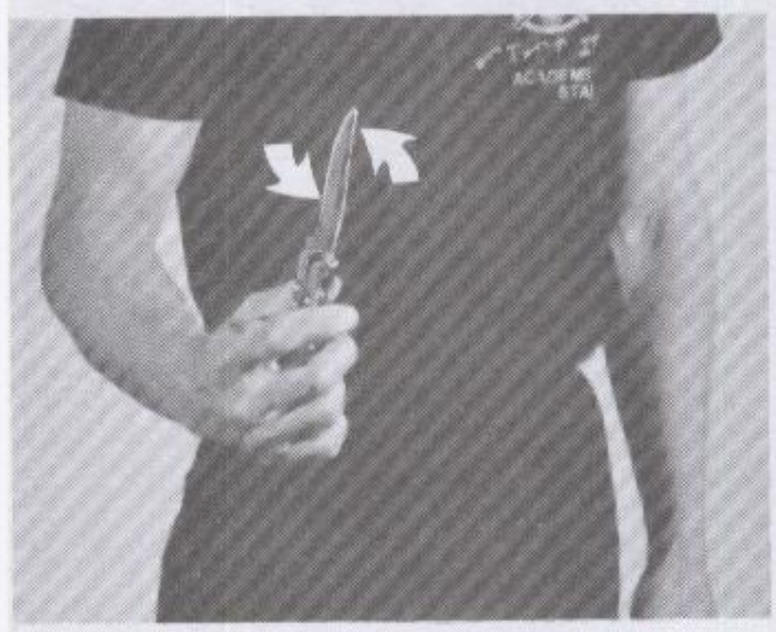

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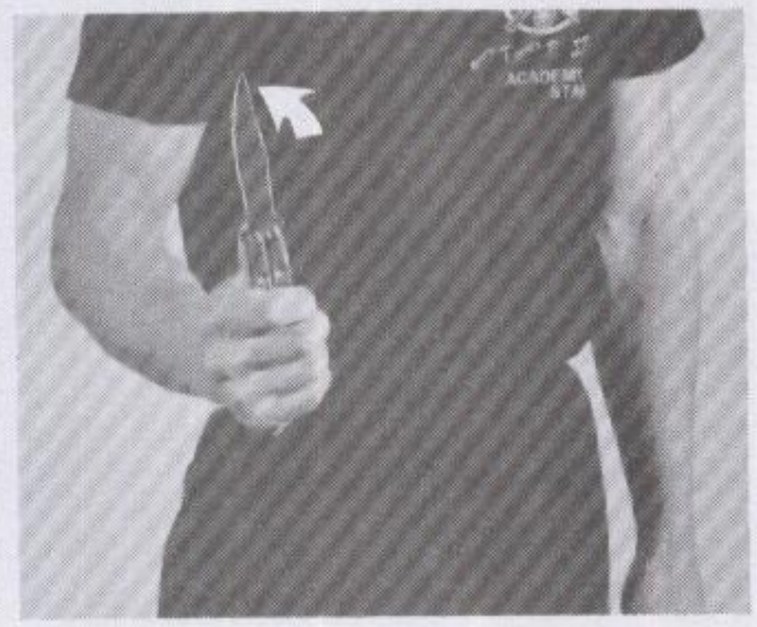


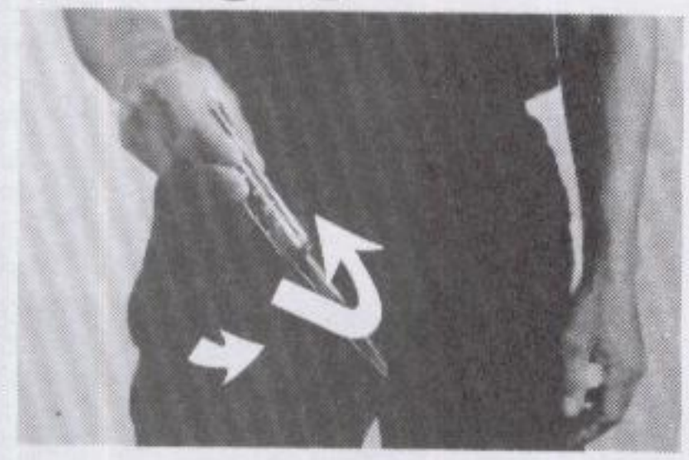
6

Starting from a modified (edge-in) ice-pick grip (1), drop the tip of your blade down and swing it forward and up (2). Place your middle finger behind the handle (handles are now between your index and middle fingers) and continue the upward motion. Use your thumb to continue the rotation (3). Grasp the knife, in an edge-in position, and rotate the blade 180°, counterclockwise, to end up with an edge-out foil grip (4, 5 & 6).

GRIP CHANGES
Across the Body
Edge-in foil grip to an edge-out ice-pick grip

1

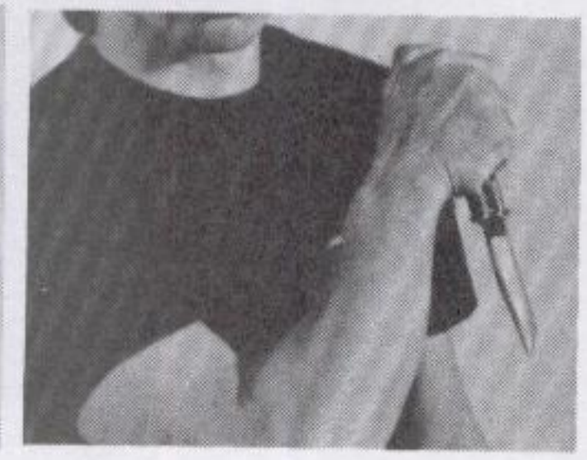
2


3

4

5

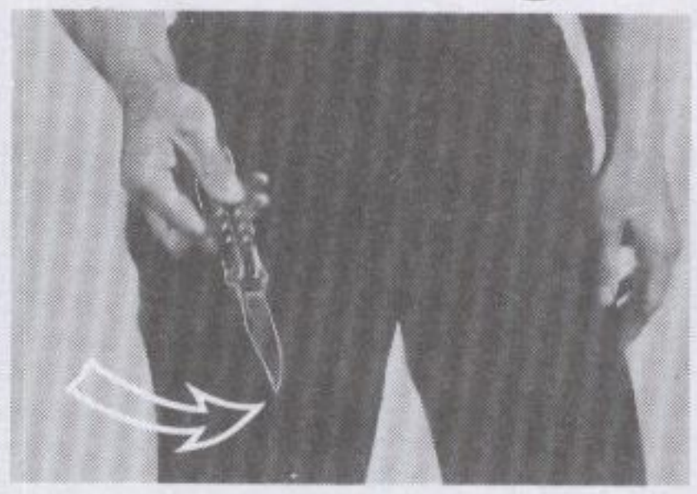
6


7

From an edge-in foil grip (1), rotate your knife counterclockwise (360°) with your thumb, index and/or middle fingers as you sweep across your body into an edge-out, ice-pick grip (2, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7). The combative application becomes an (edge-in) foil grip slash (edge-out) ice-pick slash and an (edge-out) ice-pick backhand thrust.

GRIP CHANGES
Edge-in foil grip to an edge-in ice-pick grip

1


2

3

4

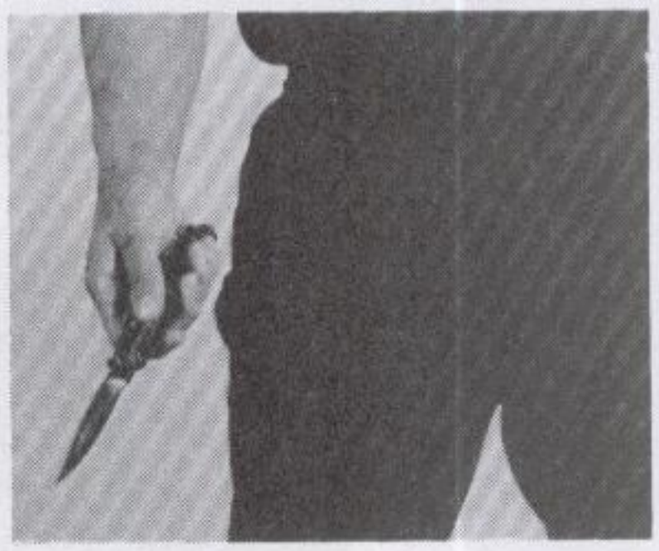
5

6

From an edge-in foil grip (1), rotate your knife, counterclockwise (180°) with your thumb, index and/or middle fingers as you sweep across your body into an edge-in ice-pick grip (2, 3, 4, 5 & 6). The combative application becomes an (edge-in) foil grip slash and grip change to an (edge-in) ice-pick backhand thrust.

GRIP CHANGES

Foil Grip (edge-in), Finger Twirl and Ice-Pick Grip (edge-in)



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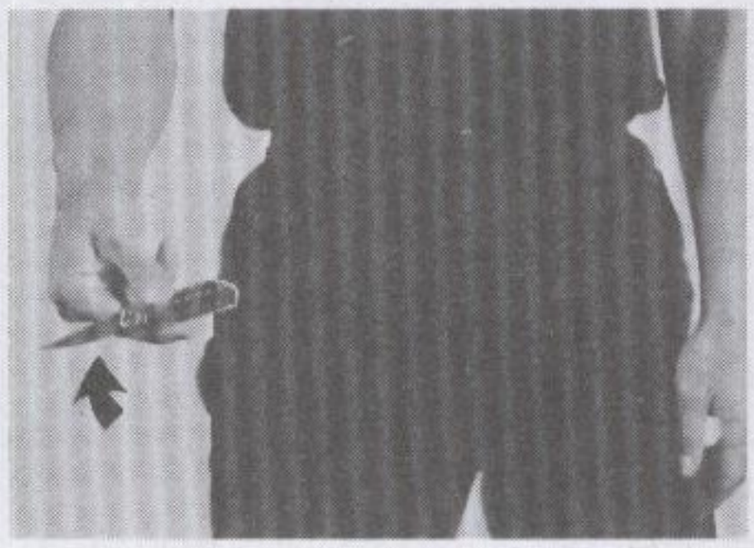

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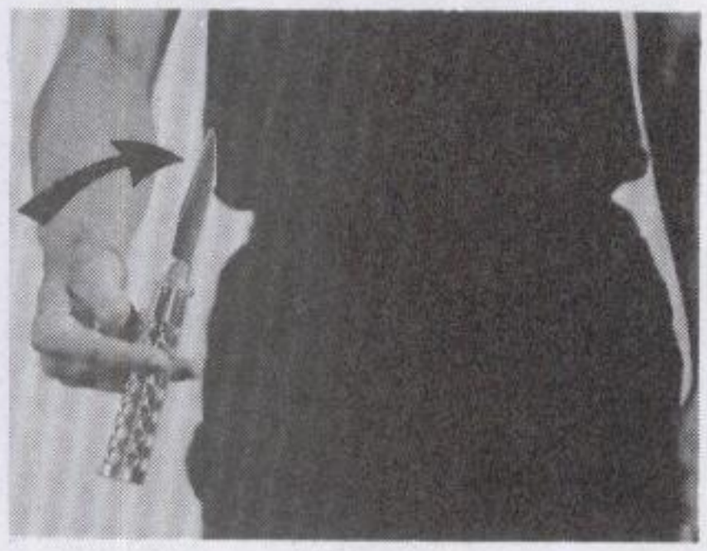

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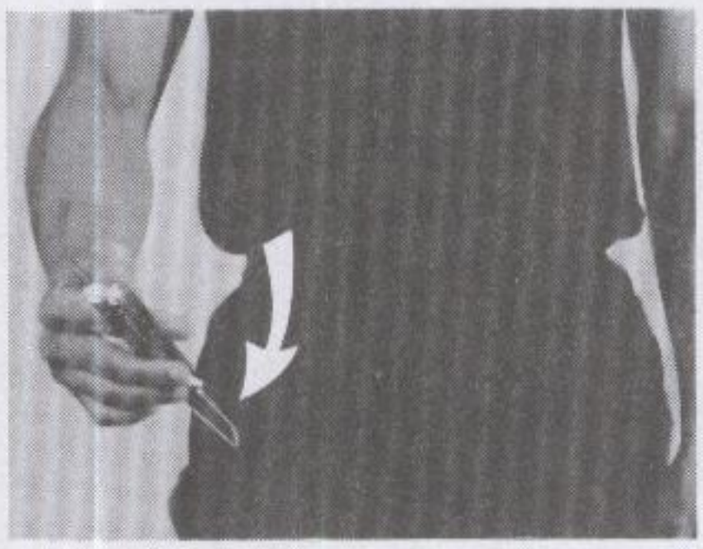

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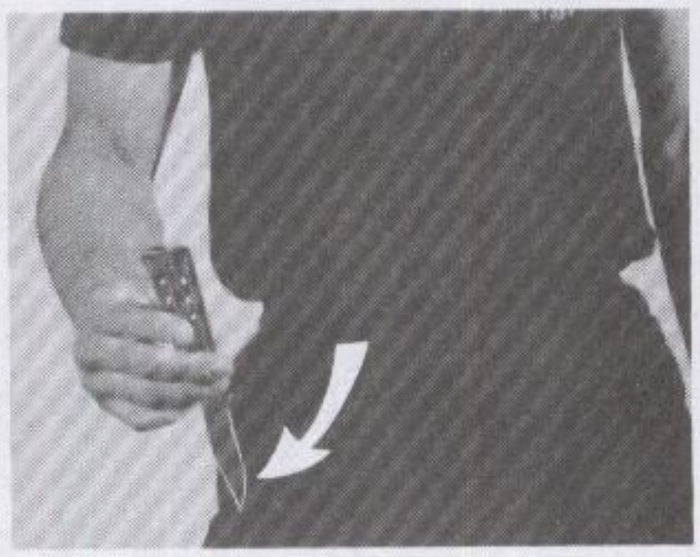

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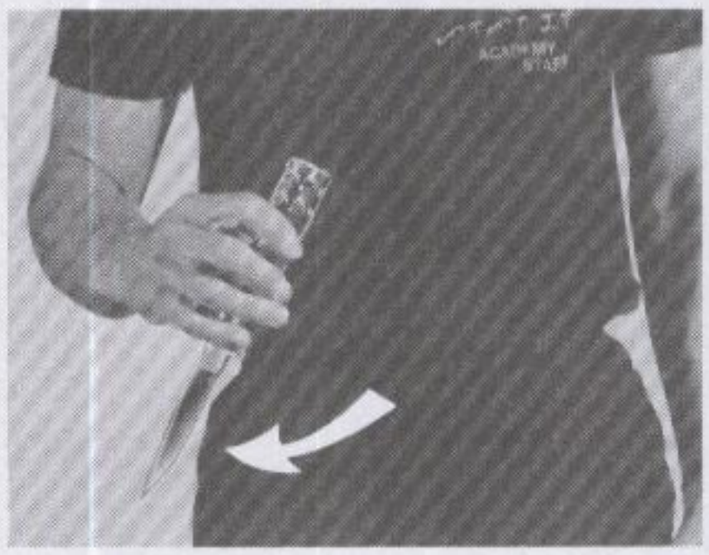

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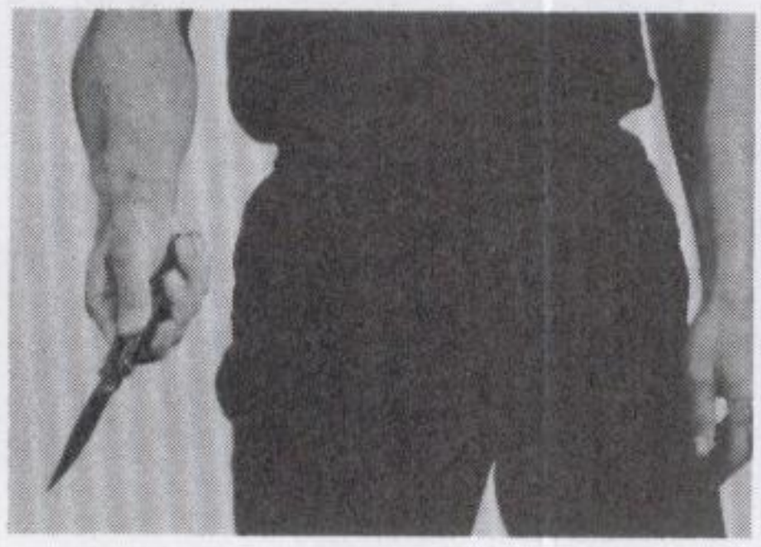
7

From an edge-in, foil grip (1), place your middle finger on top of the handle and twirl the blade, up and in, towards your body (2, 3 & 4). After one revolution, grip the handle with all your fingers and end up with an edge-in, ice-pick grip (5, 6 & 7).

GRIP CHANGES

Foil Grip (edge-in), Finger Twirl and Ice-Pick Grip (edge-out)



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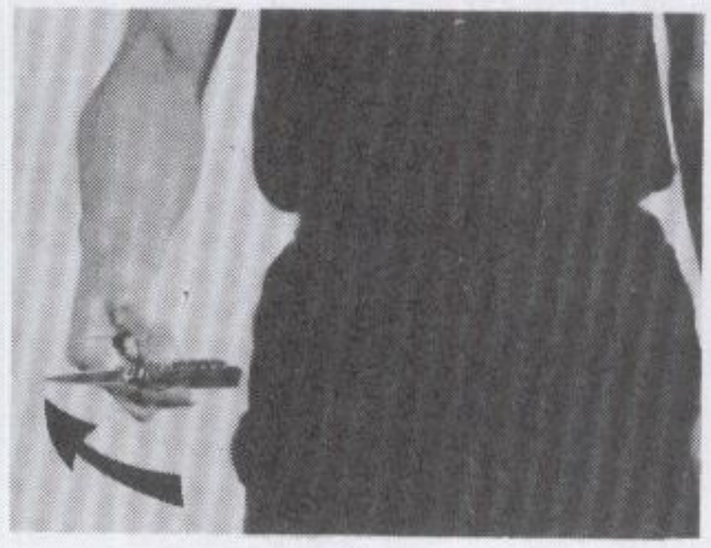

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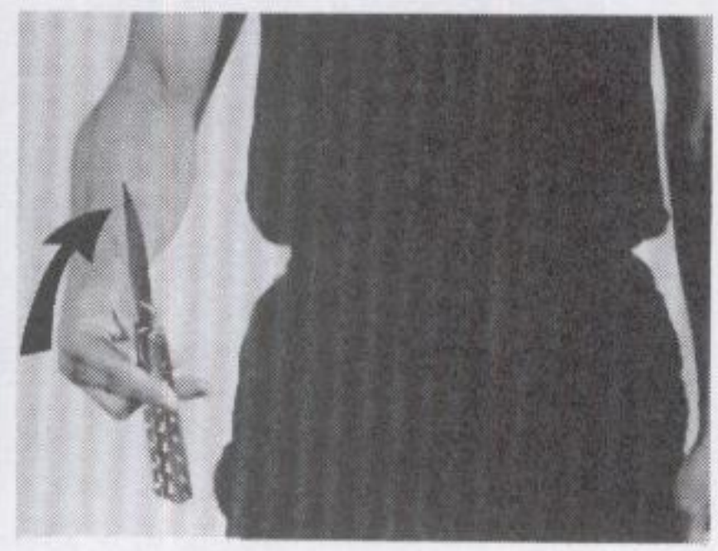

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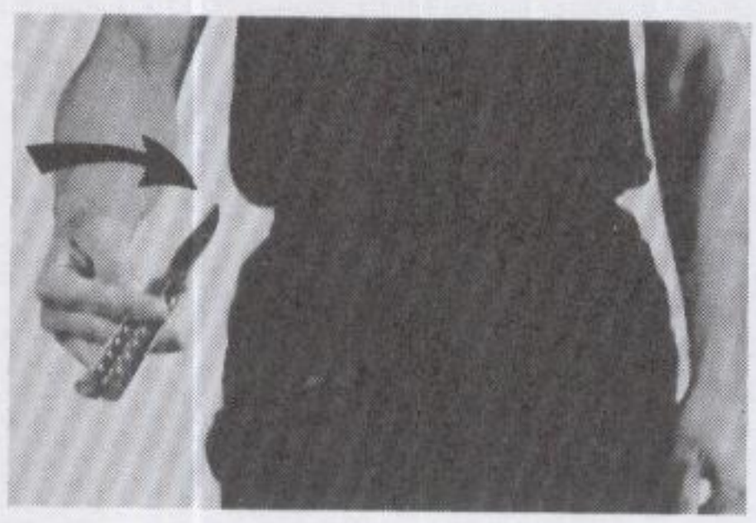

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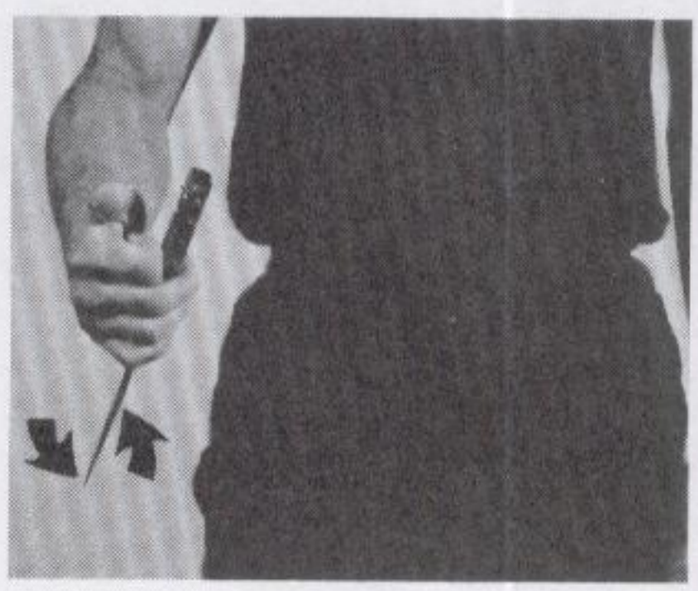


6

7

8

From an edge-in foil grip (1), place your middle finger on top of the handle and twirl the blade, up and in, towards your body (2, 3 & 4). After one revolution, grip the handle with all your fingers, rotate the blade counterclockwise (180°) and end up with an edge-out ice-pick grip (5, 6, 7 & 8).

SELF-DEFENSE WITH THE BALISONG

Any sensible person will avoid a fight if given the choice. However, under many circumstances you are not always allowed to make that choice. The aim, then, is to prepare for a fight as much as it is to avoid one. Knowing how to fight raises your awareness about when trouble is coming, which is truly an art in itself. Bruce Lee emphasized this in "Enter the Dragon" when he stated that his style was not a style, but an art—"the art of fighting without fighting."

Self-defense is the right to protect yourself against violence or threatened violence with whatever means are *reasonably* necessary. The highest level of self-defense is to stop or avoid an act of violence before it starts.

The second level is to immediately neutralize an attack with as little force as is necessary. And the third level is to use as much force as is required to gain control of the situation. A defense that inflicts more violence than is required is not legally or morally acceptable and makes you no better than the attacker.

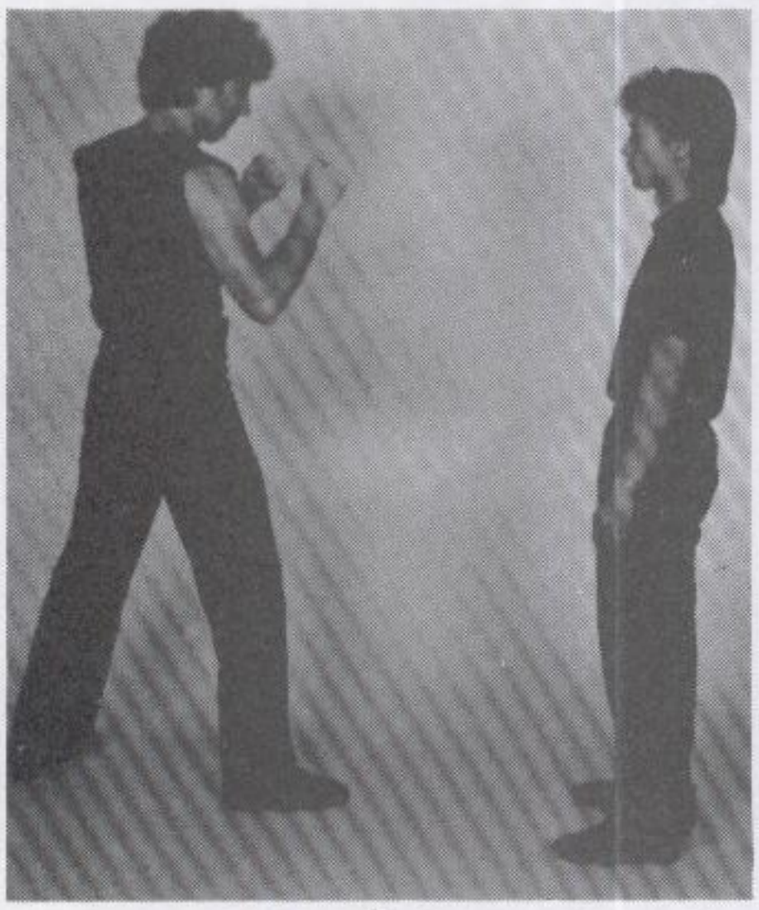
Attacks take place when the attacker assumes you are unable or unwilling to defend yourself. Attackers choose those who they expect to behave as a helpless or passive victim or who they want to intimidate. Bullies who attack and find they don't have a willing or helpless victim are often discouraged.

The balisong knife is a very moral self-defense tool, because of its yin and yang qualities. It has a peaceful mode as well as a violent one, whereas, once drawn, a regular knife is solely a tool of maximum force. The balisong can be used in stages and degrees depending on your needs.

In the peaceful or nonaggressive mode, it can be used like a Japanese yawara or Filipino tabak maliit (pocket stick). Yet, with a slight change of wrist movement, it conveniently and rapidly converts from a defensive to an offensive weapon.

Please don't misinterpret this section as encouraging you to challenge a knife fighter. Avoiding any confrontation is always the best defense. It's almost impossible to exit a knife fight, once begun, totally unscathed. If unavoidable, remember that the most practical moves are always the simplest and a disarm only works if you can get it—there's no guarantee. The following situations are merely examples and are by no means the only solutions.

DEFENSE WITH A CLOSED BALISONG



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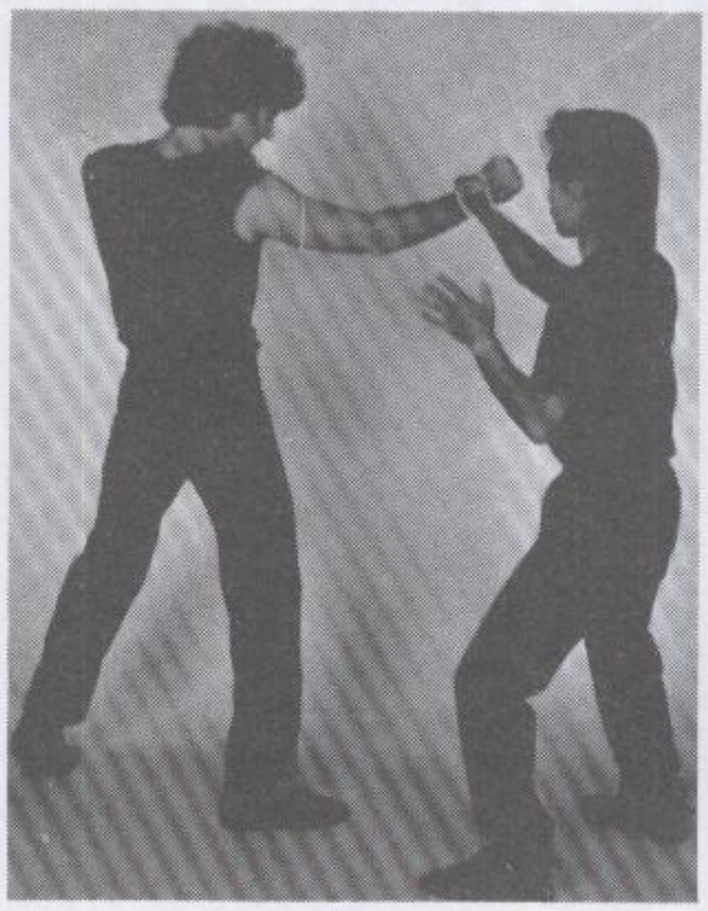
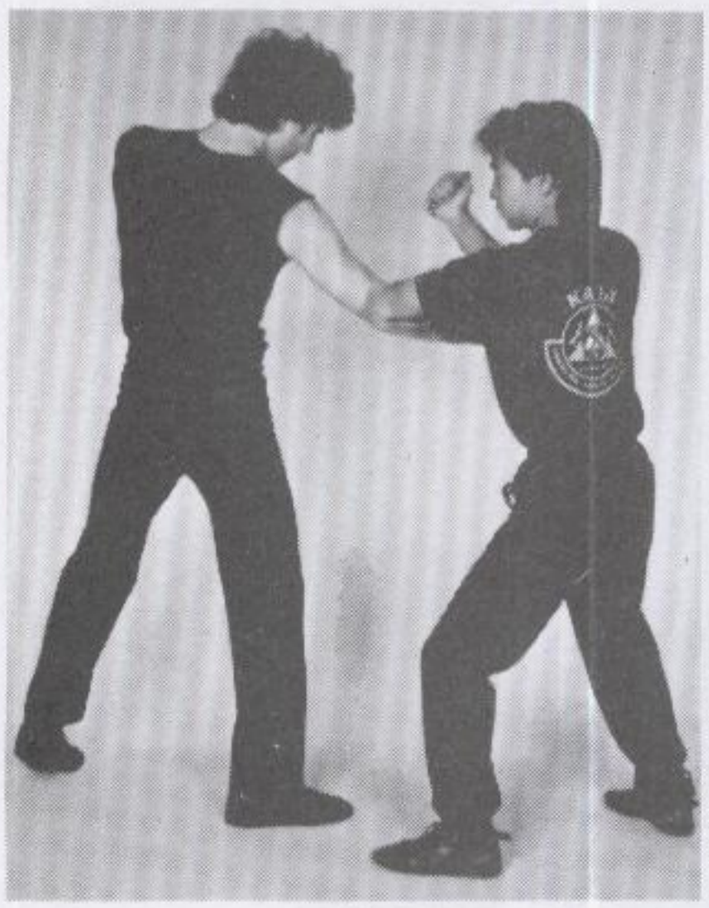


2

3

Your attacker throws a right jab (1). Angle to your left and hit/check your attacker's right hand with the butt of your balisong (2). Simultaneously, slide up his arm to strike his eyes with your left hand (3).



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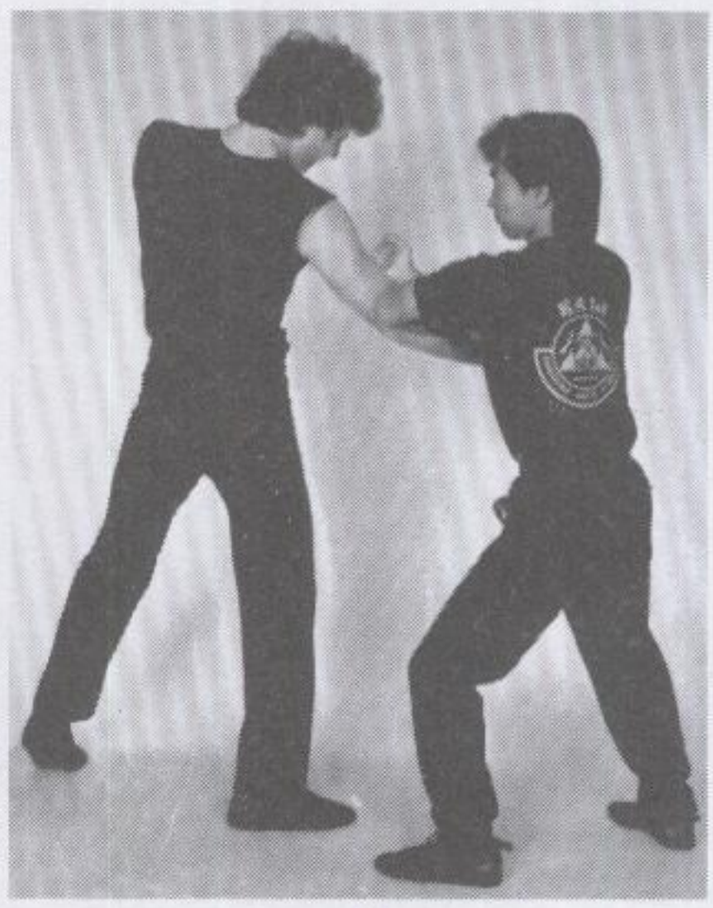

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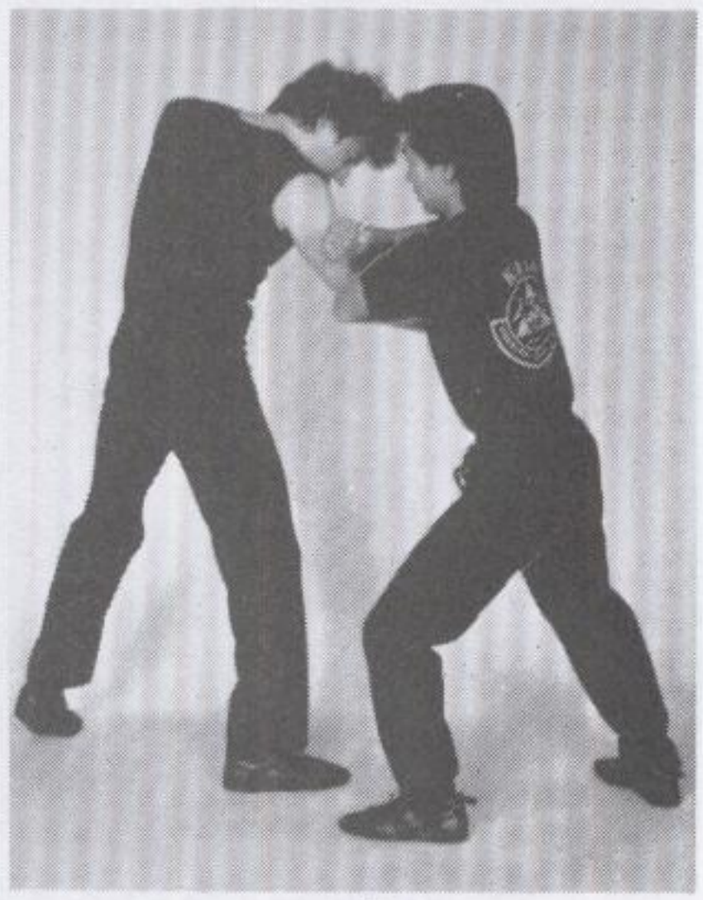


6

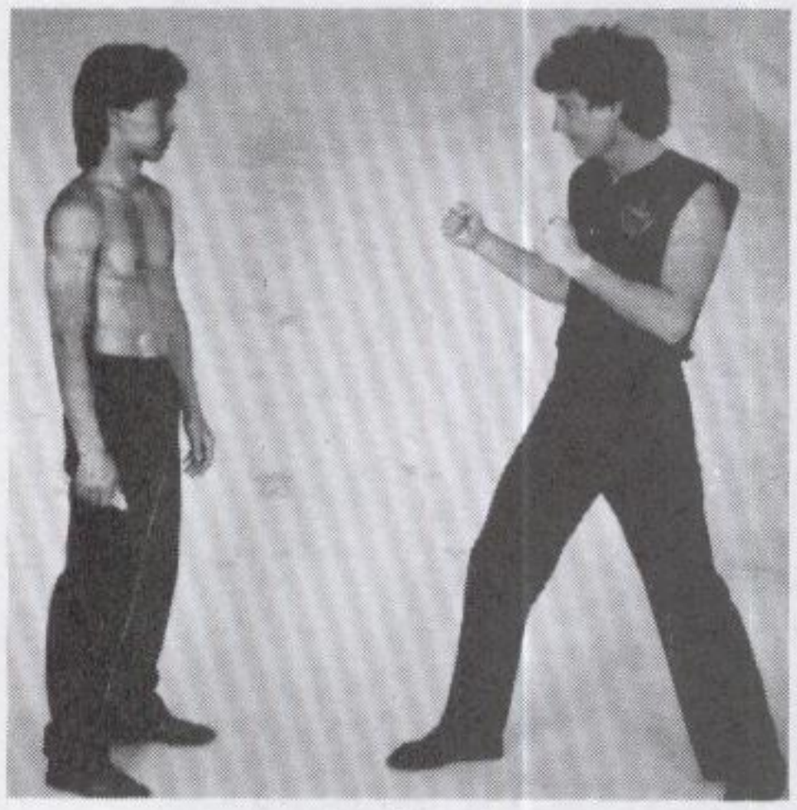
Pull your left hand back and continue to check his right arm with your hand and forearm (4). Hit your attacker's bicep with the balisong butt (5), right elbow smash (6), and balisong hit to the head (7).

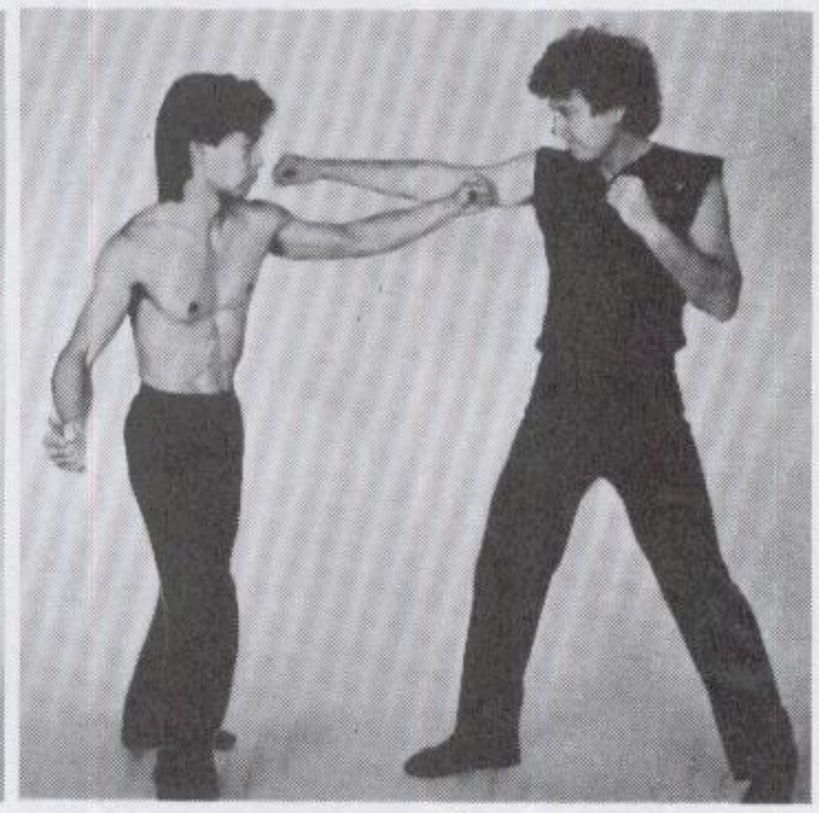
7

7A

Close-up view of the balisong butt hit (7A).

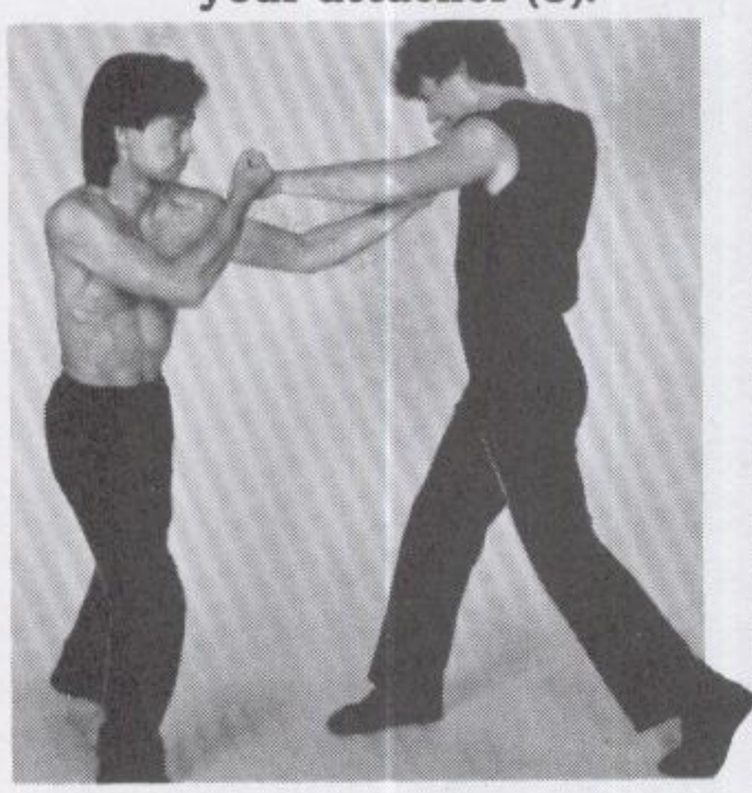
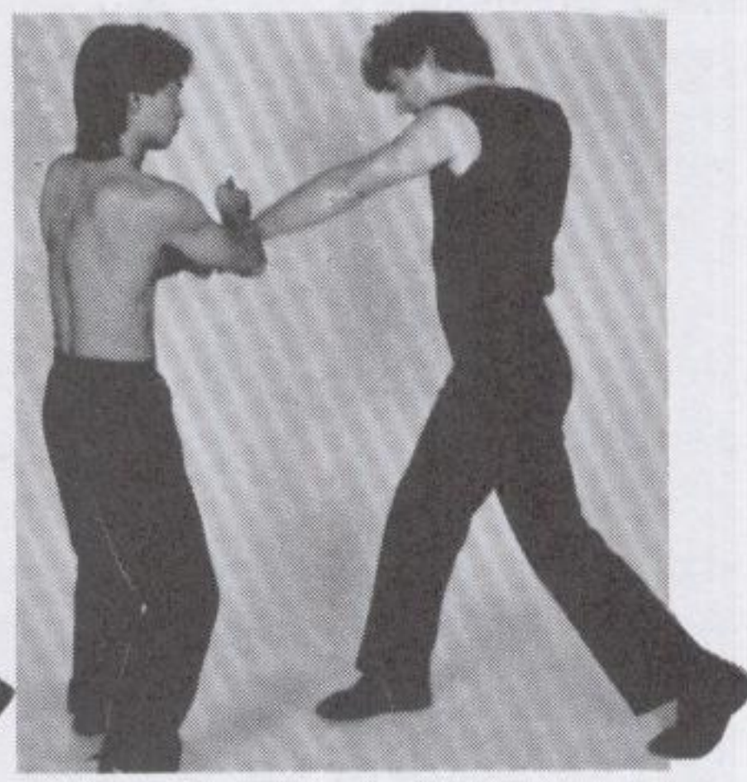
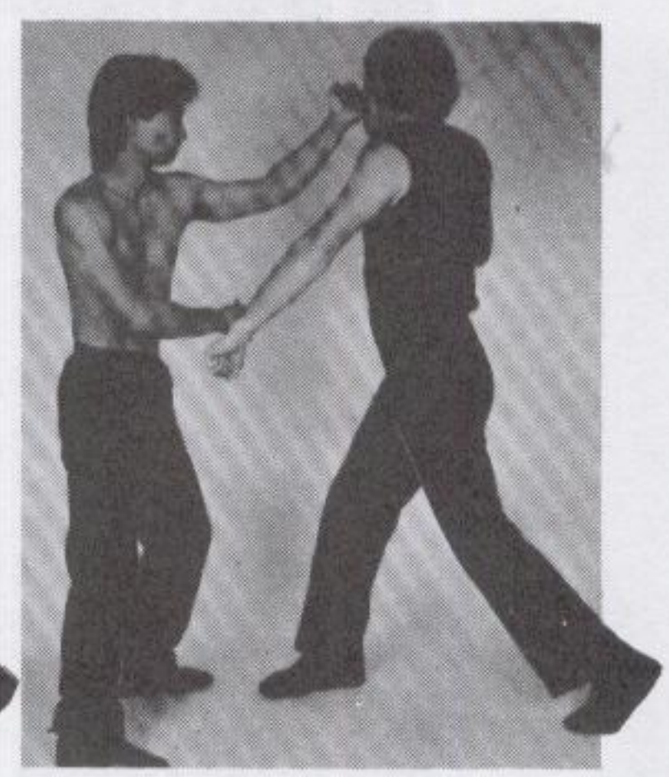
DEFENSE WITH A CLOSED BALISONG





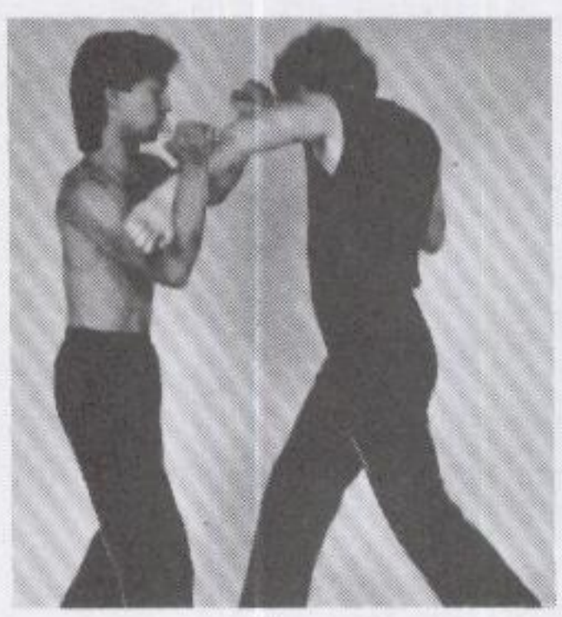
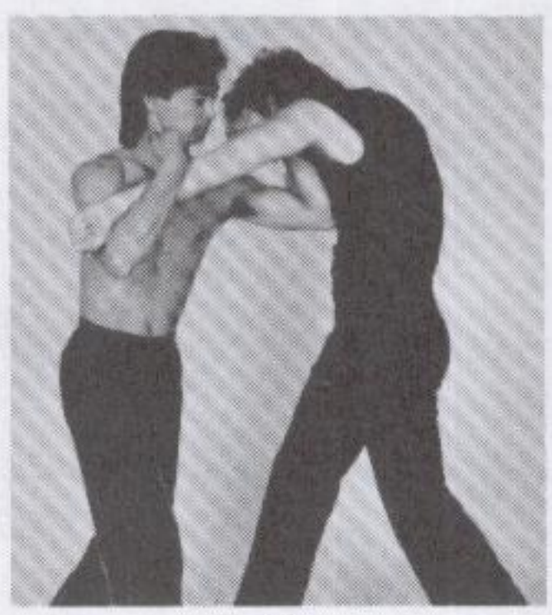
1 2 3

Your attacker throws a right jab (1). Angle to your right and hit/check his right hand with the butt of your balisong, while simultaneously hitting his bicep with a hammer fist (2). Your right arm opens up your body to bait your attacker (3).

4 5 6

He throws a left cross. Angle to your right and check his left hand with the butt of your balisong. Simultaneously, hit his bicep with your left fist (4). Check and guide your attacker's left arm down and to your right in a counterclockwise motion, simultaneously hitting him in the head with a backfist (5 & 6).

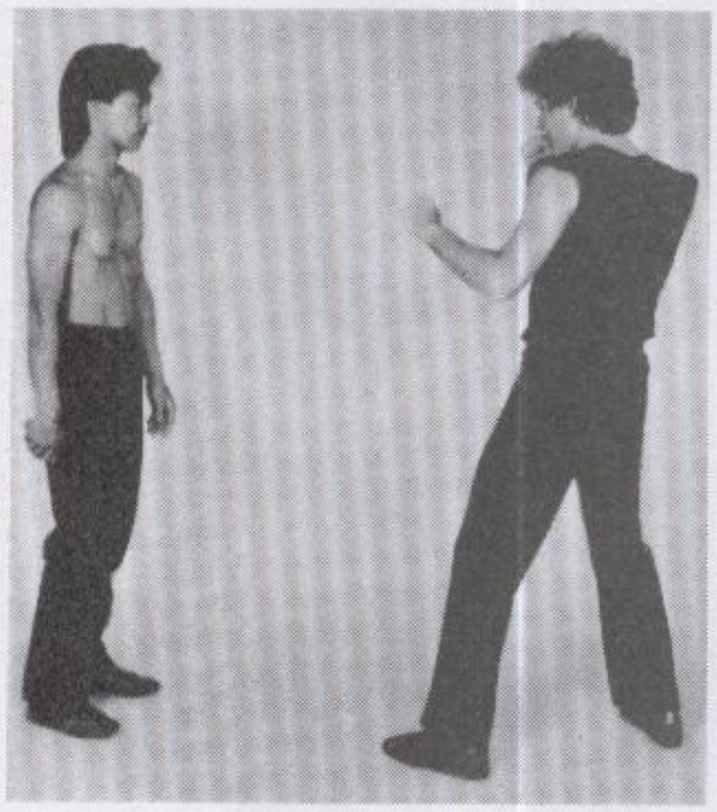
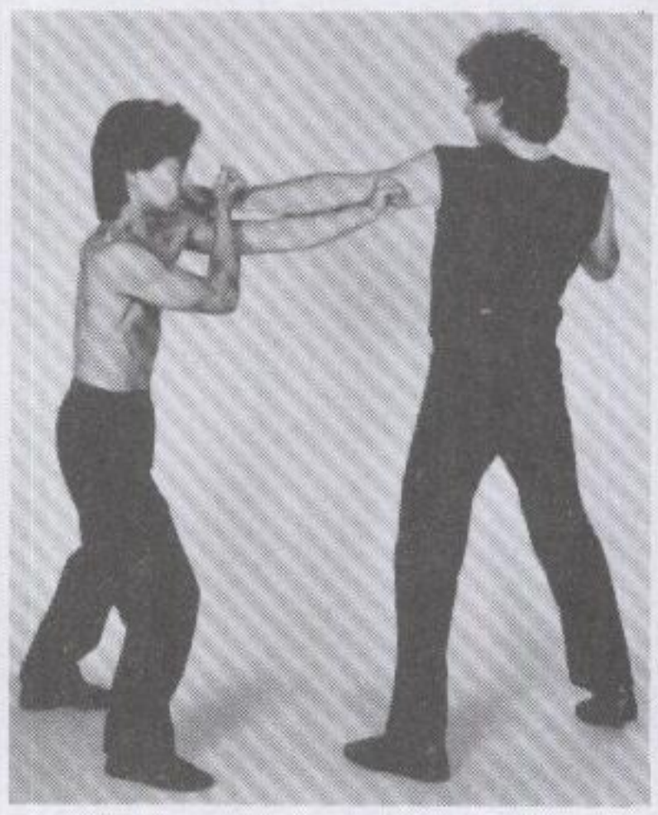
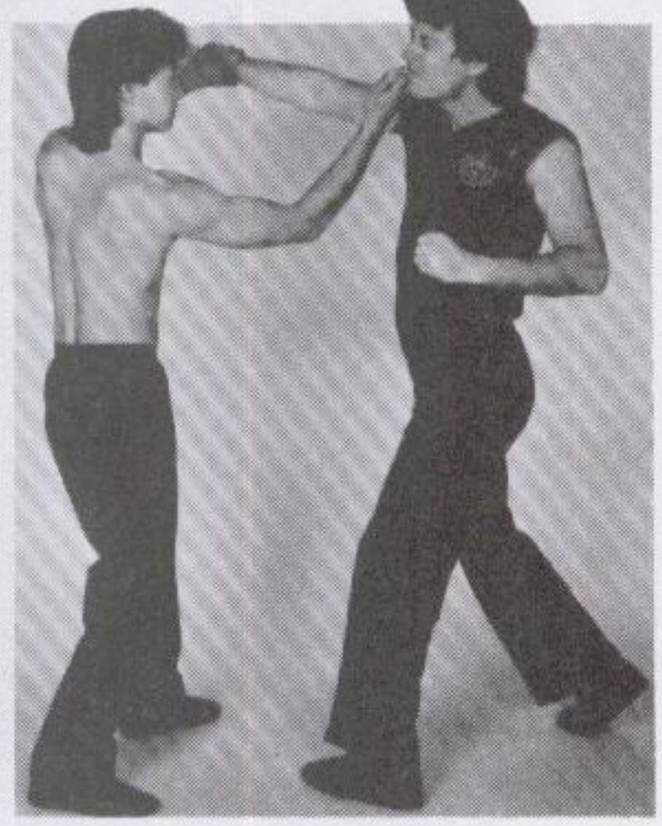



Close-up view of sequence (8).

7 8

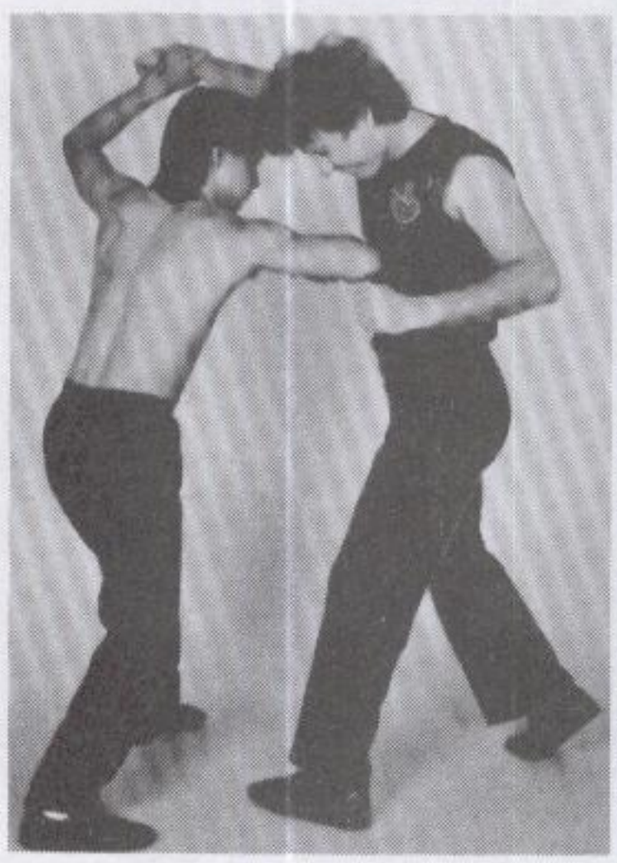
Retain control of the attacker's arm by encircling his left arm (7). Use your balisong to apply pressure to the elbow for an arm lock, while driving your left elbow into his chest (8).

DEFENSE WITH A CLOSED BALISONG

1 2 3

Your attacker throws a left jab. Angle to your right and check his left hand with the butt of your balisong, simultaneously hitting his tricep with your left backfist (1 & 2). He follows up with a right hook. Hand check and grab his wrist with your left hand, while hitting to the face with the tang end of your balisong (3).



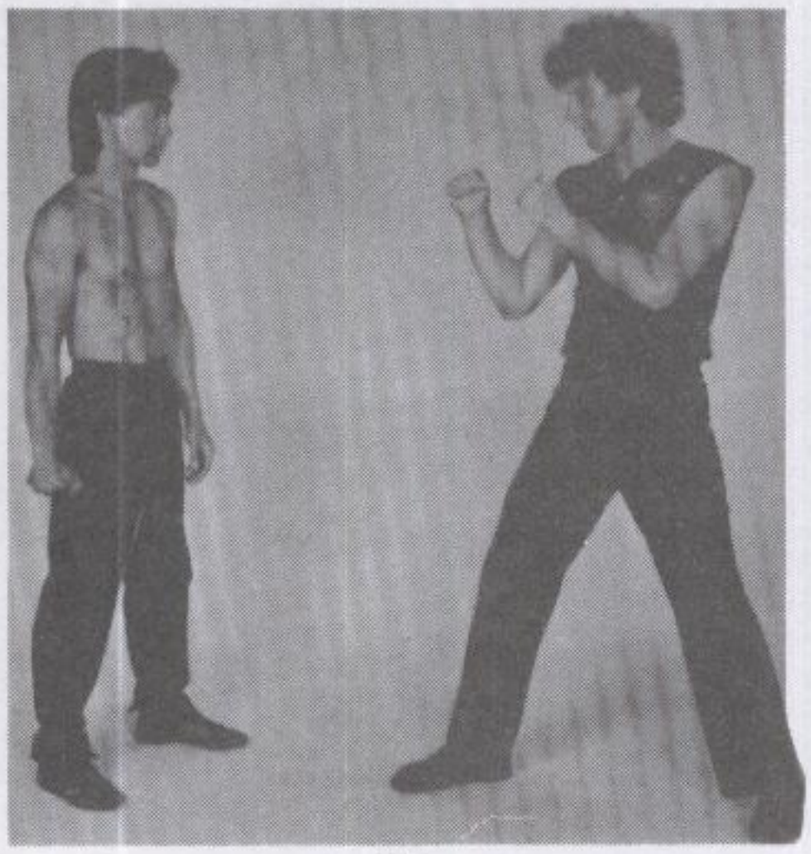
4 5 6

Pull your attacker off balance with your left hand and drive an elbow into his ribs (4). Step in with your right foot and lock his arm over your left shoulder, while driving your right elbow into his back (5 & 6).

4A 5A 6A

4A, 5A and 6A are reverse views of sequence (4, 5 & 6).

DEFENSE WITH A CLOSED BALISONG



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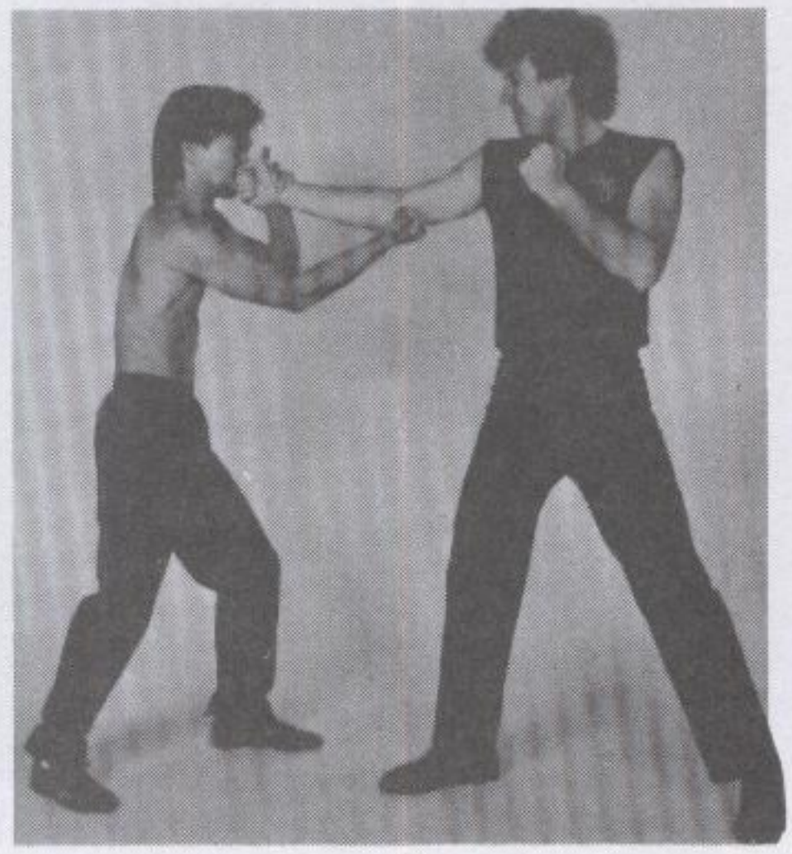
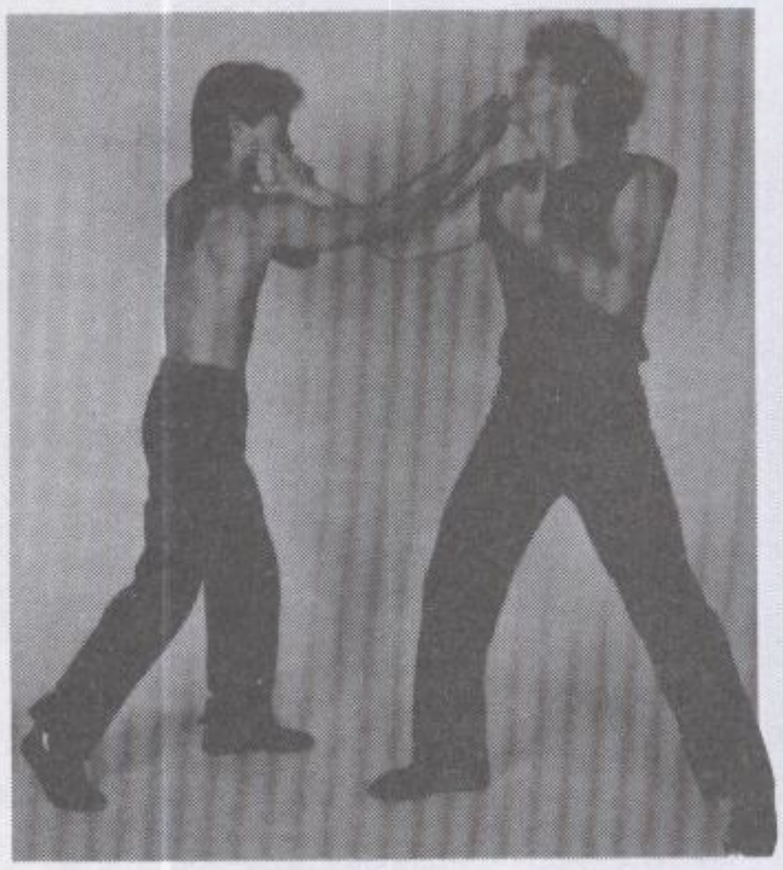


2

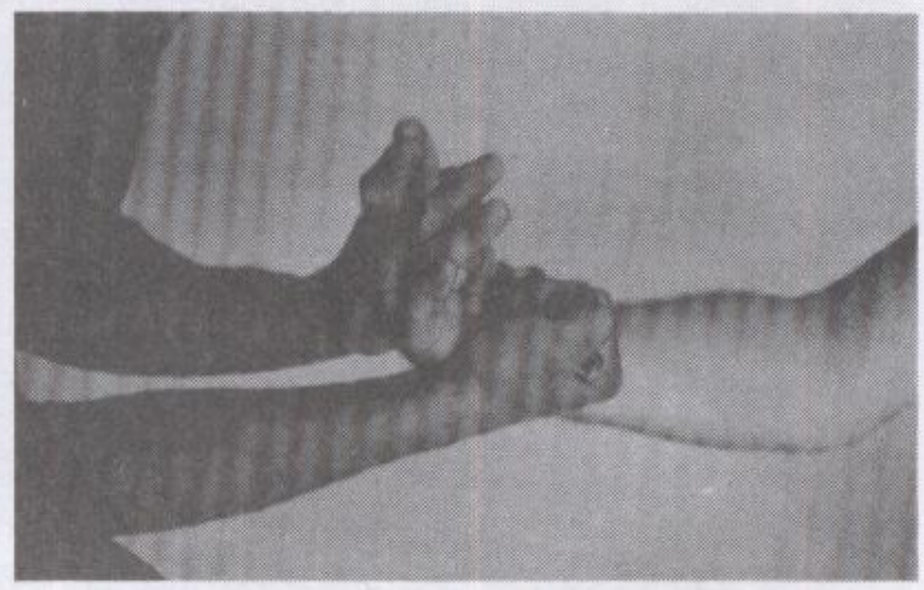
Your attacker throws a right jab. Angle to your left and check his right fist with your left hand. Simultaneously hit his bicep with the butt of your balisong (1 & 2).



3

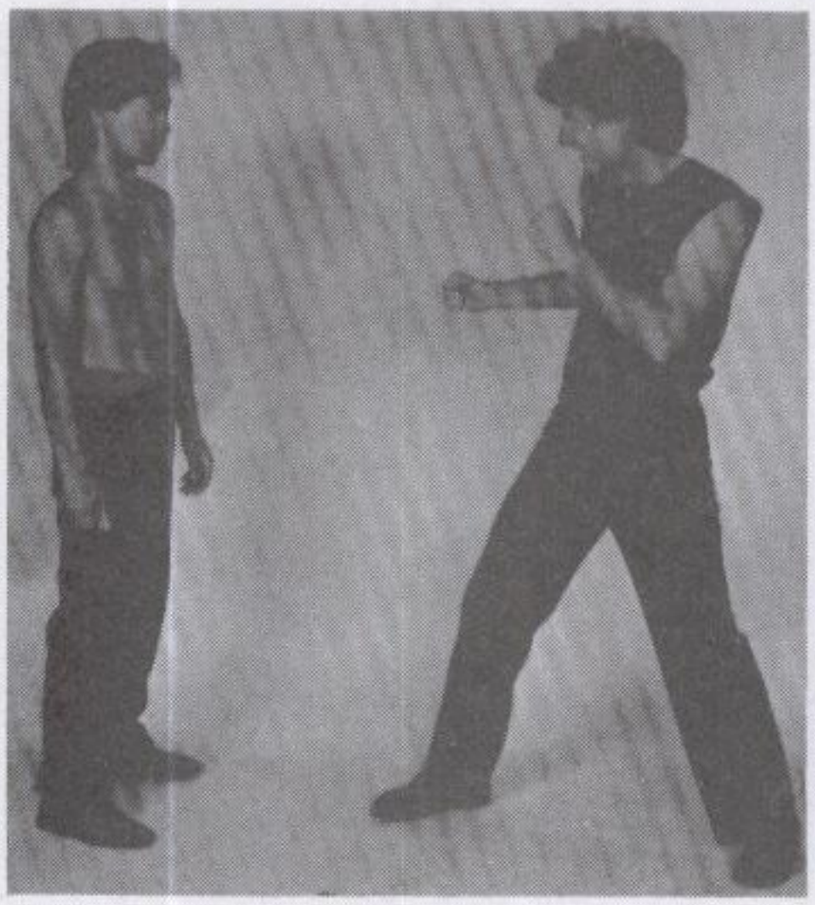
4

Follow through with a thrust to his face with the tang end of your balisong (3). Pull back and grab his right wrist with your left hand and apply pressure with the balisong butt for a wrist lock (4).

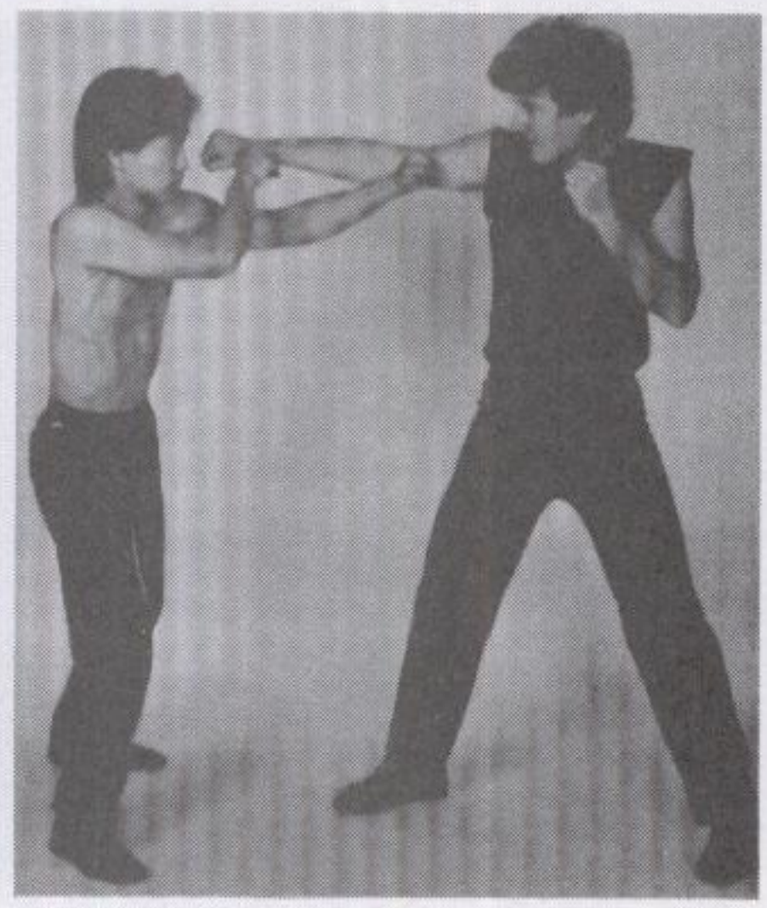


Closeup view of the wrist lock.

DEFENSE WITH A CLOSED BALISONG



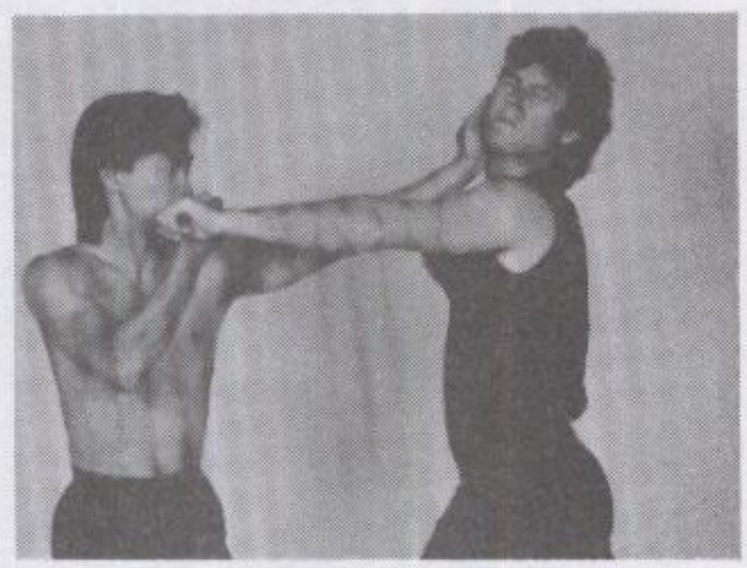
1



2

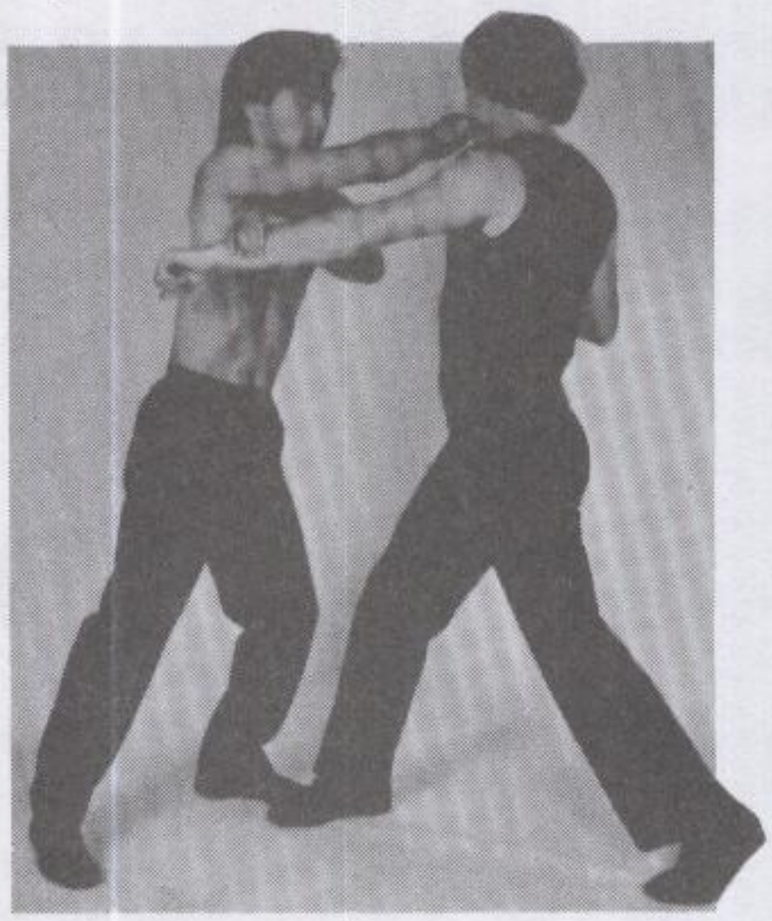
Your attacker throws a right jab. Angle to your right and hit/check his right hand with the butt of your balisong, while hitting his bicep with your left fist (1 & 2).

3



4

He follows up with a left cross. Angle to your left and hit to his face with a left palm strike. Simultaneously hit and check his left hand with the butt of your balisong (3 & 4).



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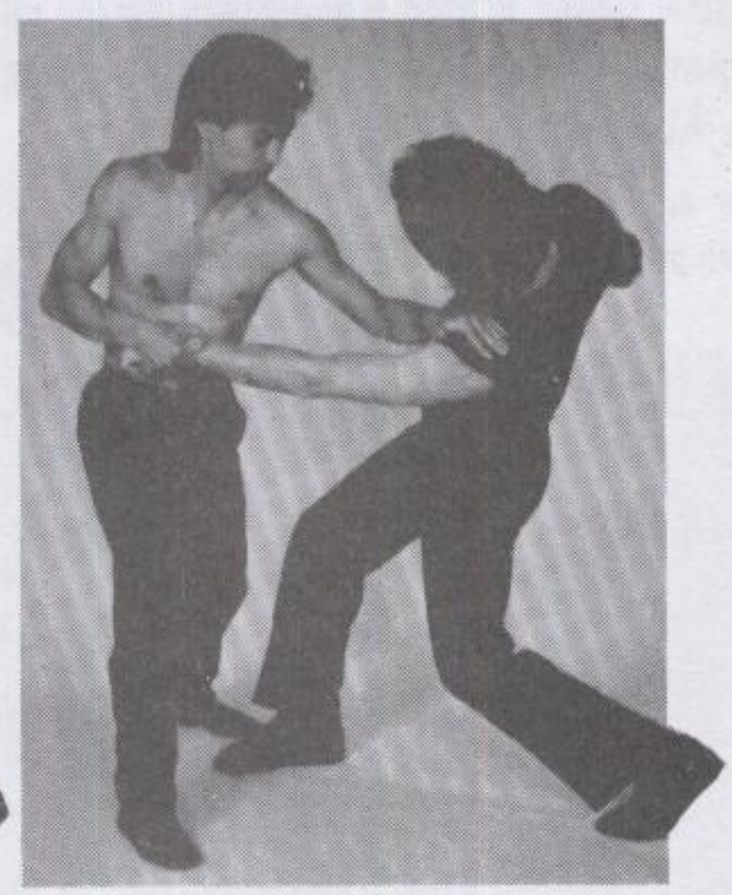
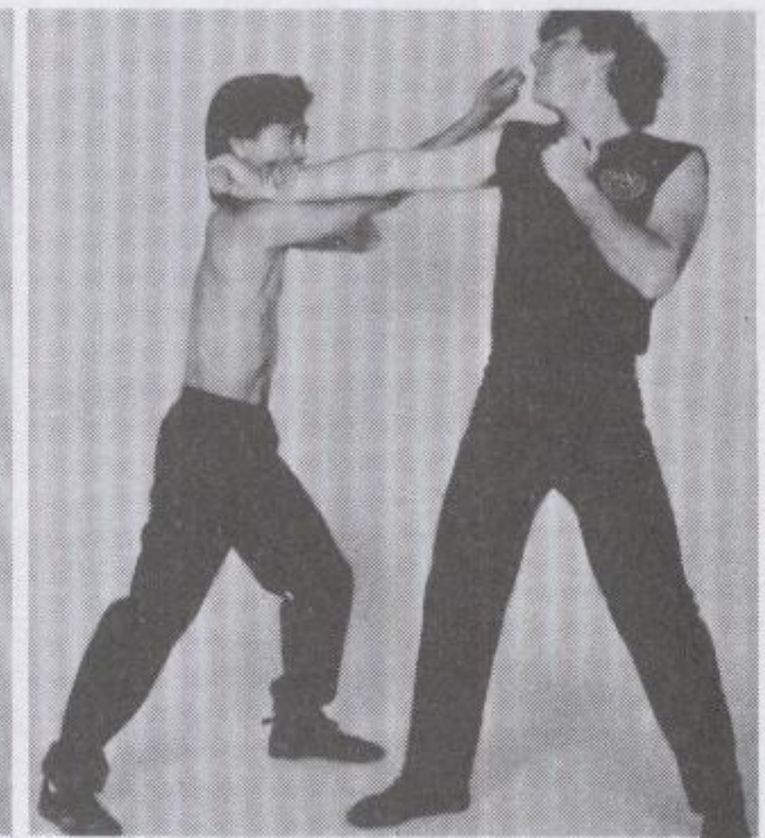


6

Slide your left hand back to check and grab his left arm, while following through with a right hook to the face (5). Slide your right hand back for a wrist grab (apply pressure with the side of the balisong), while pushing him back for a take down (6).

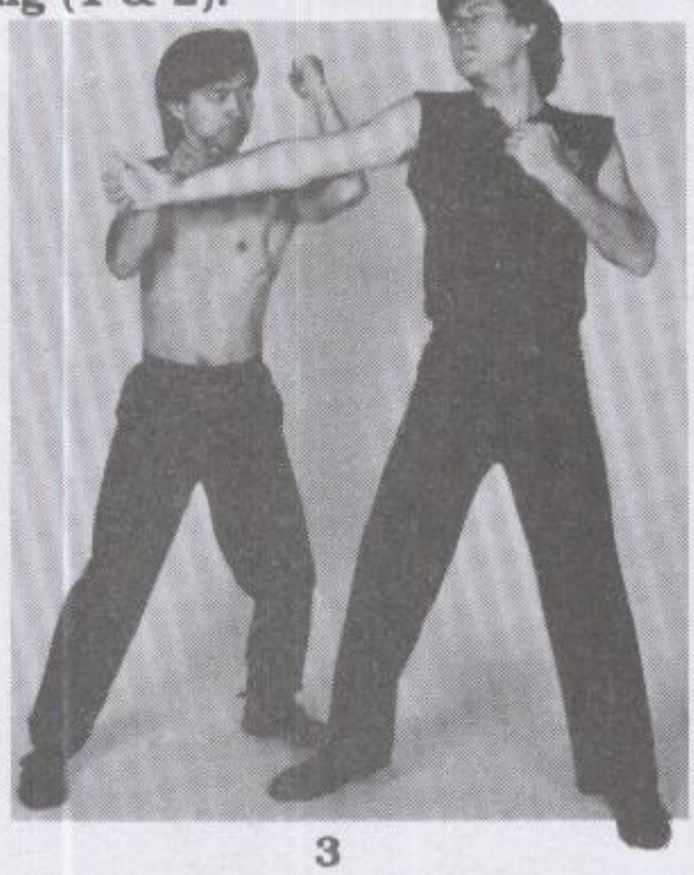
DEFENSE WITH A CLOSED BALISONG

1



2

Your attacker throws a right jab. Angle to your left and check his arm with your left hand. Simultaneously hit his face with the tang end of your balisong (1 & 2).

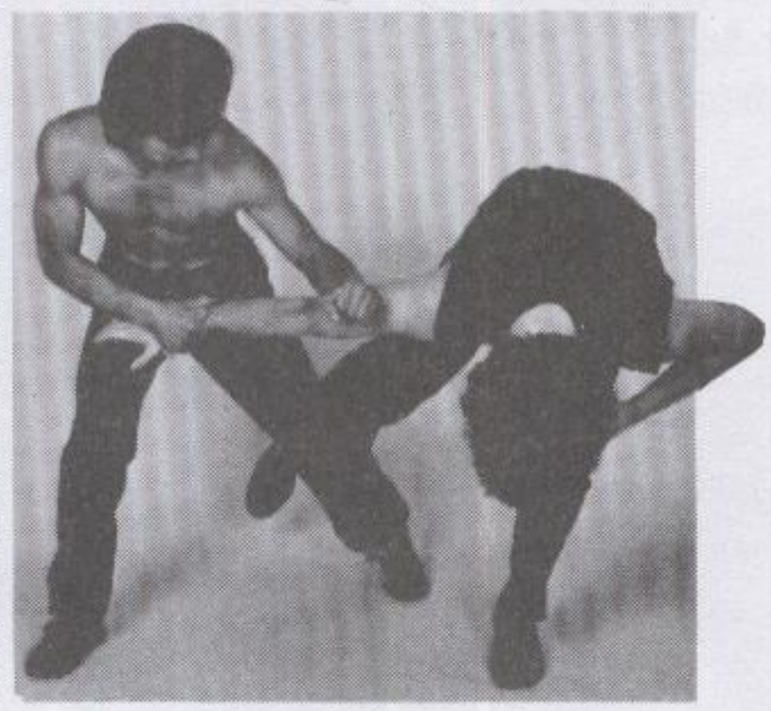


3

4

Slide your right hand back to trap his wrist between your arm and the balisong butt. Quickly perform an elbow strike to his arm and rib cage (3 & 4).

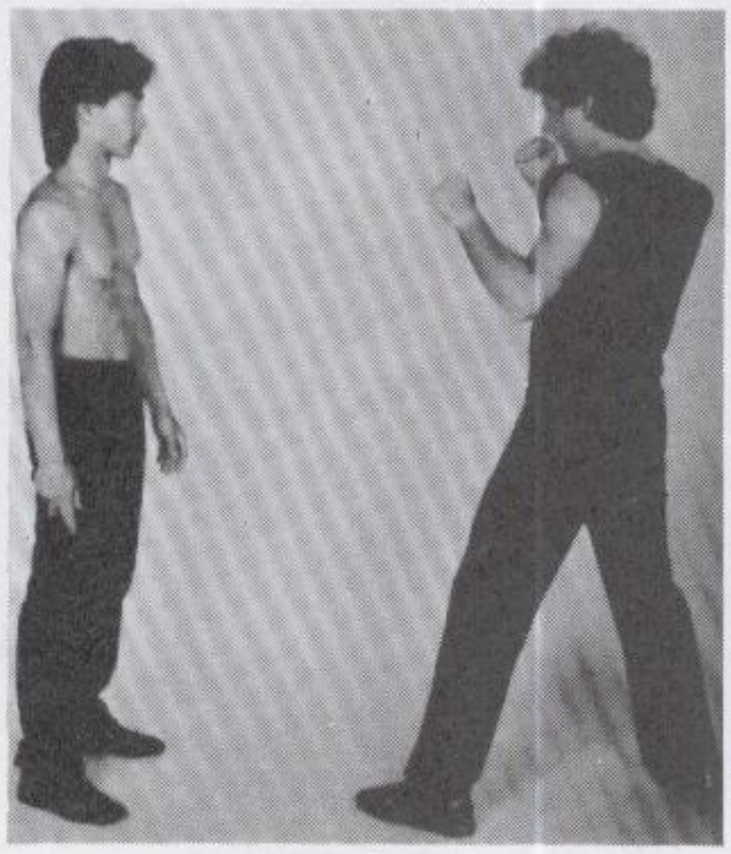
5



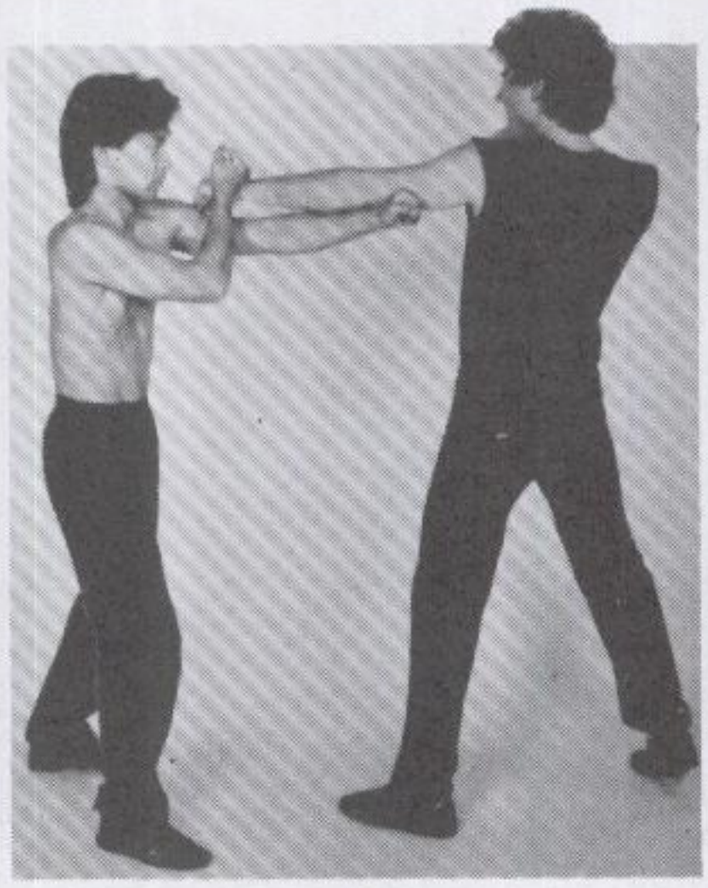
6

Reposition your left leg while maintaining the arm lock (5). Take him down by pushing him forward over your rear kicking leg (6).

DEFENSE WITH A CLOSED BALISONG



1



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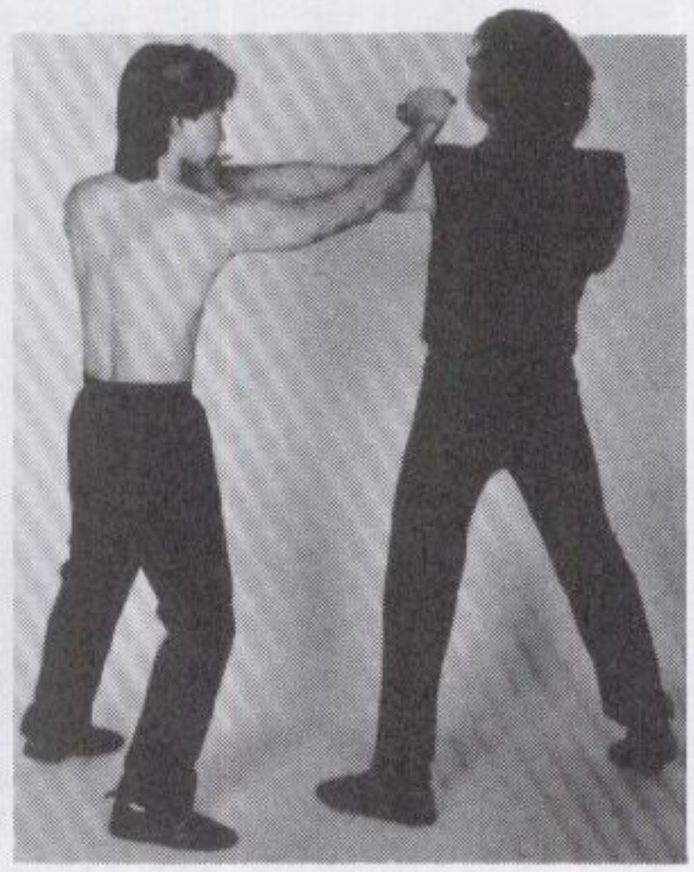
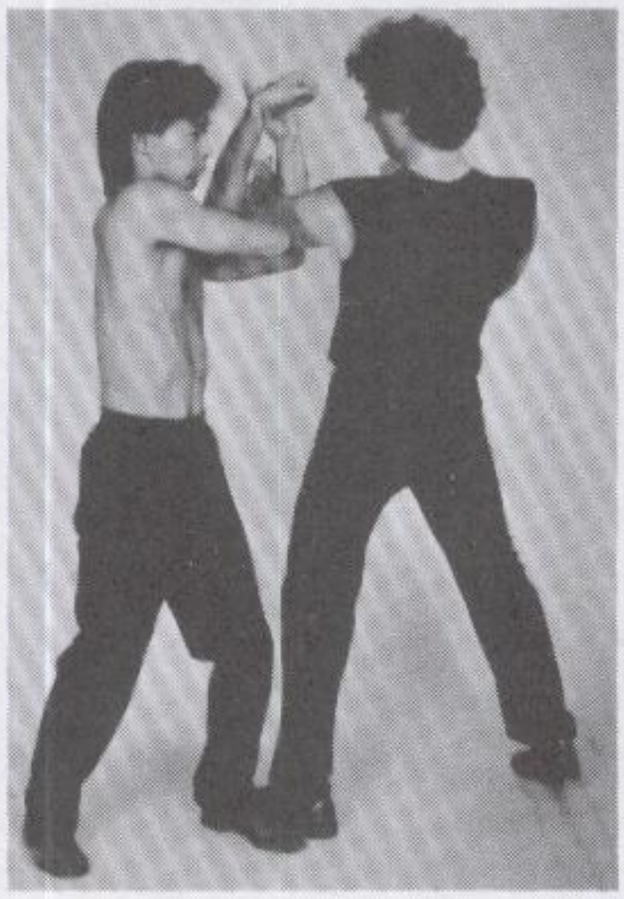


3

Your attacker throws a left jab. Angle to your right and hit/check his left hand with the butt of your balisong, simultaneously hitting his tricep with your left fist (1 & 2). Hand check and grab with your left hand, while hitting to the face with the balisong butt (3).



4

5

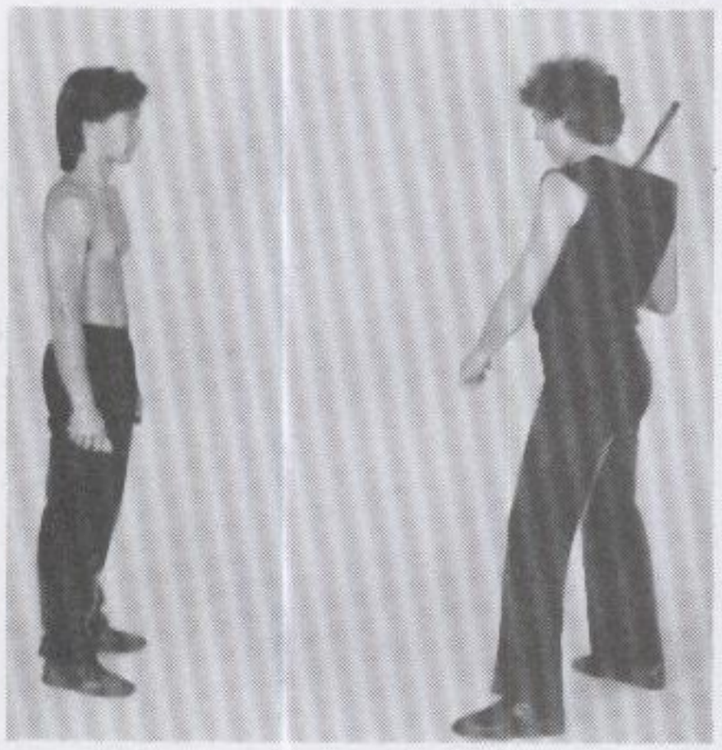
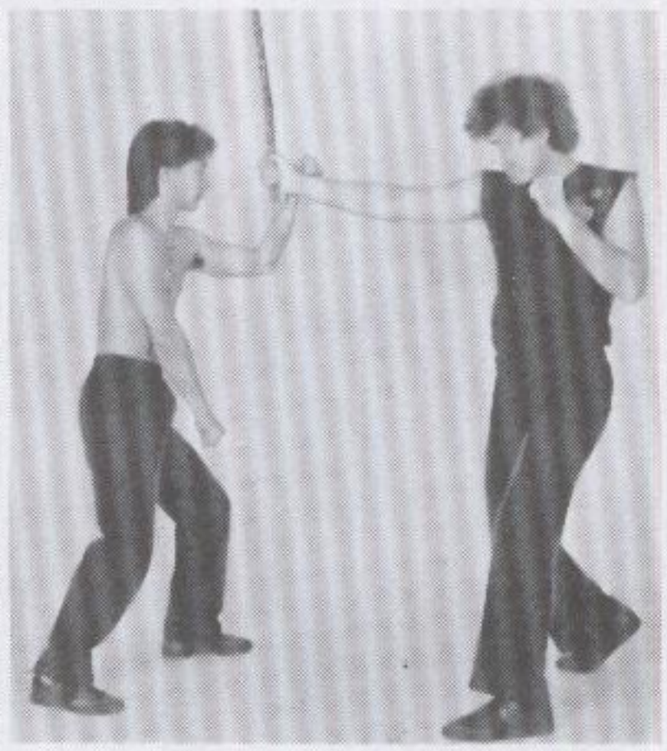
Jerk your right arm back to bend your opponent's arm to form a wrist lock (4). Using your left hand and bicep to control the wrist lock, hit to the neck or jaw with the butt end of the balisong (5).

6

7

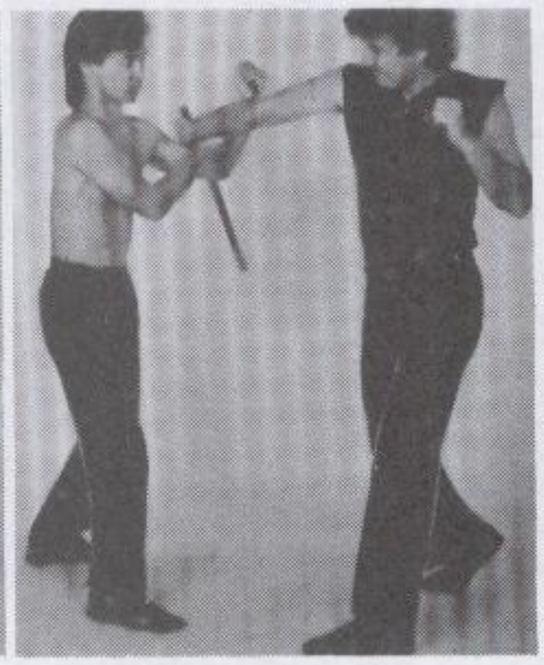
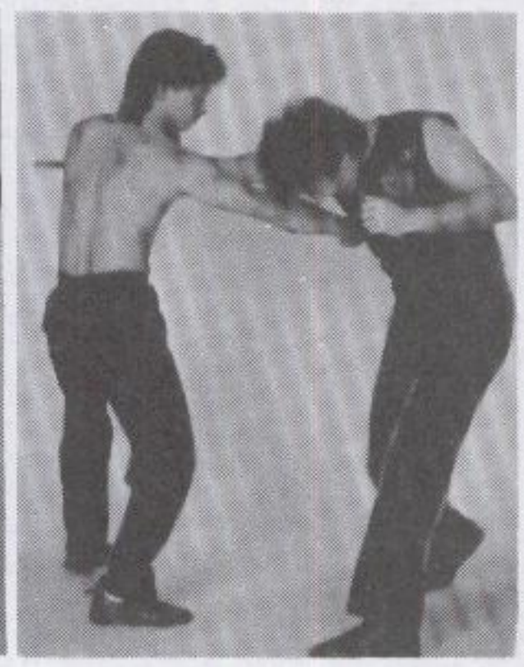
Continue your right-hand momentum over his right shoulder and use the balisong butt to force a take down (6 & 7).

DEFENSE WITH A CLOSED BALISONG

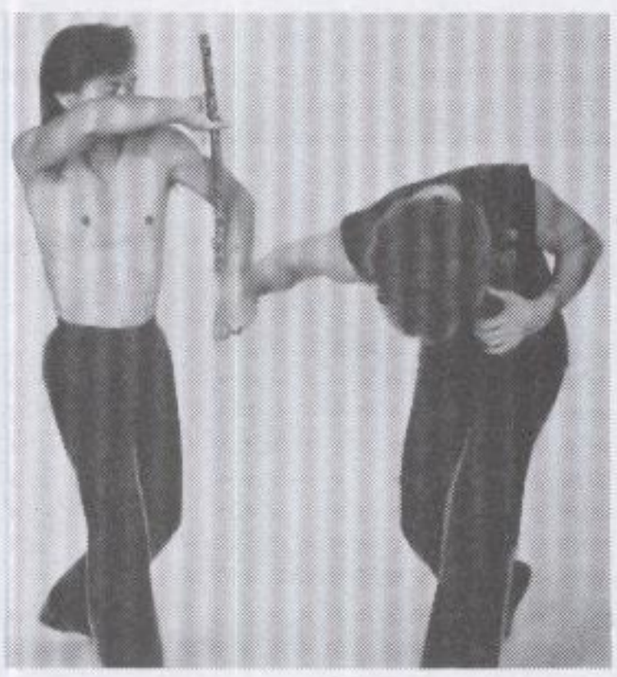
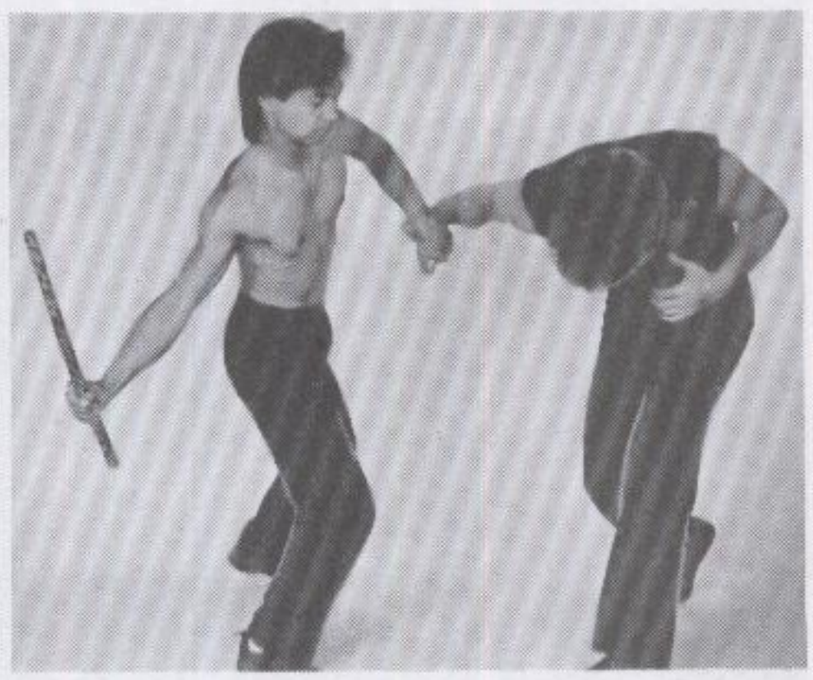
1 2 3

Your attacker attempts a number 1 strike (see THE FILIPINO MARTIAL ARTS by Dan Inosanto) to your head (1). Angle to your left, to avoid the strike, and hit/check his right hand with the butt of the balisong in your left hand (2). Quickly follow up with a right balisong butt hit (3).

4 5 6 7

Encircle your opponent's weapon hand in a clockwise motion (4). Pull your right hand back to lock up his weapon hand, while encircling with your left hand for a similar lock (5). Pull back on your left arm lock, while simultaneously striking to the ribs with the right balisong butt (6). Follow through with a right balisong tang strike to the neck or chin (7).

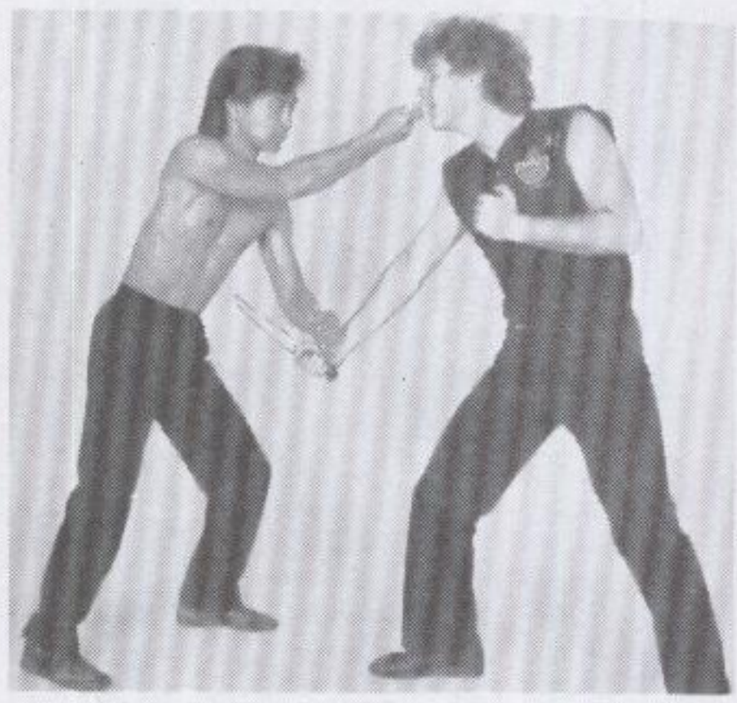



8 9 10 11

Continue your arm motion up and back for an arm strike with the right balisong butt (8). Disarm your attacker by pulling up on the weapon with your right hand and pushing down with your left (9). Continue arm motion to strike your attacker with his own weapon (10 & 11).

DEFENSE WITH TWO CLOSED BALISONGS

1

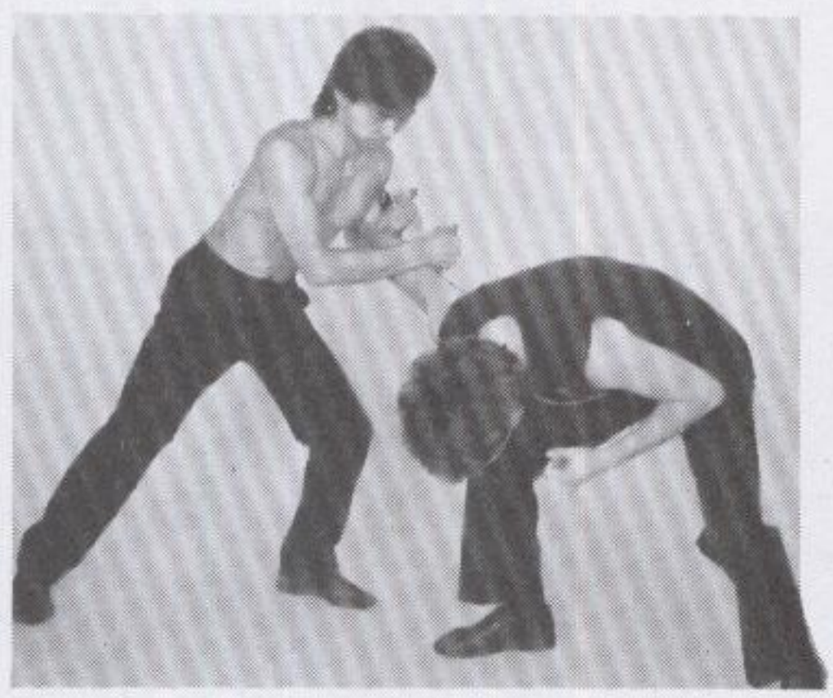


2

3

Your attacker attempts a knife thrust to your midsection (1). Angle to your left to avoid his thrust and hit/check his right hand with your left balisong butt. Simultaneously thrust to his face with your right balisong tang (2). Check and guide your attacker's right hand to your left, in a clockwise motion, with your left hand. Simultaneously hit the back of his right arm with your right balisong butt (3).

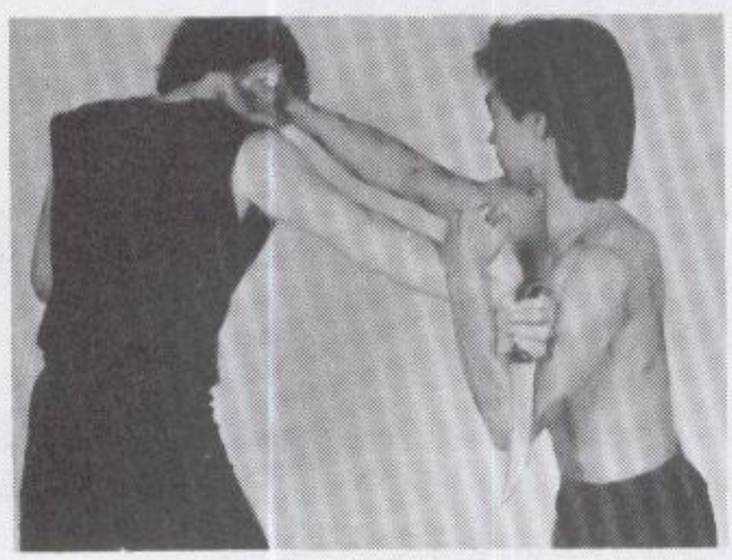
4



5

Without losing contact with your attacker's right arm, encircle and catch his wrist in the bend of your left arm (applying pressure with the left balisong butt) to form a wrist lock. Simultaneously hit to the head with the right balisong butt (4). Pull your right hand back, putting pressure onto your opponent's elbow, while pulling up with your left arm (5). You now have a wrist/arm lock. To take him down, merely step backwards.

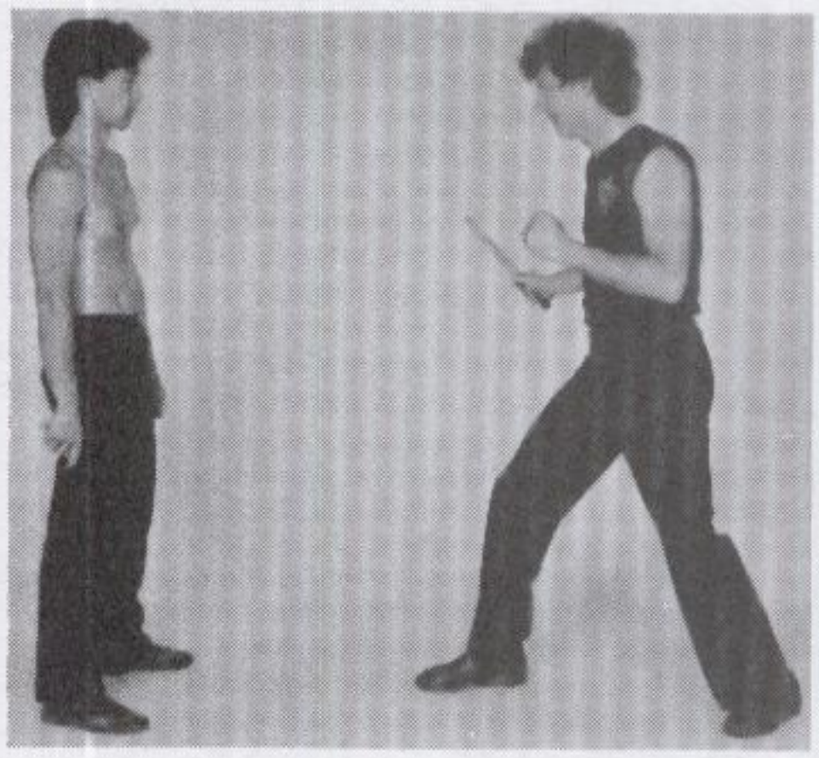
4A



5A

Photos 4A and 5A are rear view shots of (4 & 5).

DEFENSE WITH TWO CLOSED BALISONGS



1

2

Your attacker thrusts for your midsection (1). Angle to your left to avoid the thrust and check his knife hand with your right arm (2).

3

4

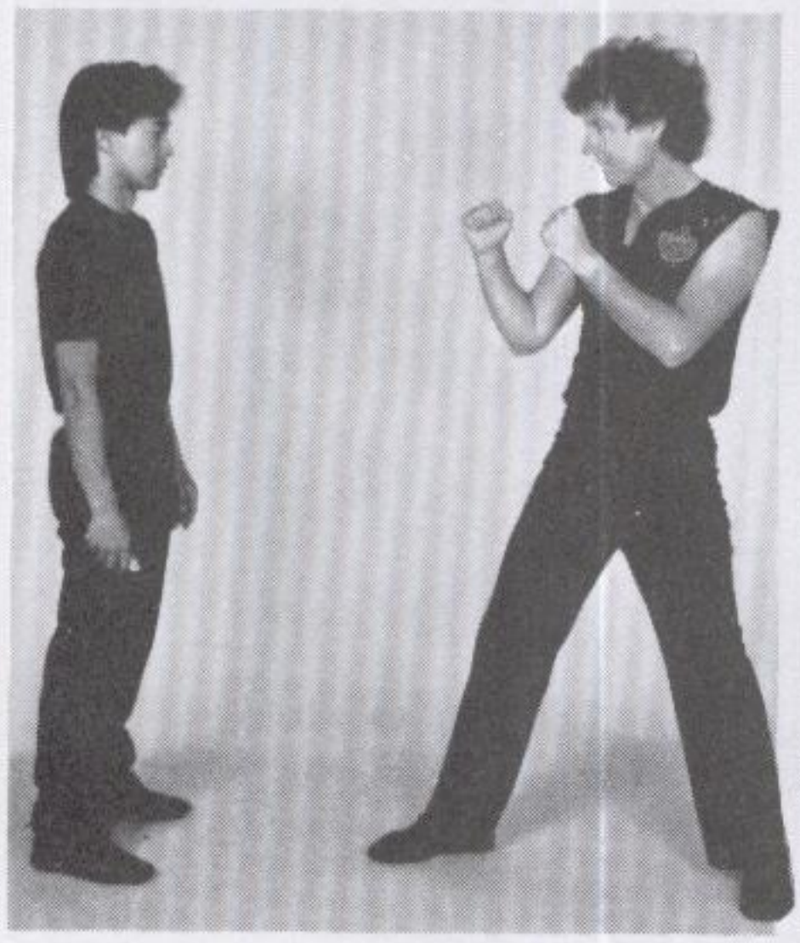
Step forward, continuing to force his knife hand away from you hit with your left balisong butt (3). Continue to check his knife hand with your left, while striking to the solar plexus with your right balisong tang (4).

5

6

Control his knife hand with your right arm and strike to the face with the left balisong butt (5). Quickly angle in back of your attacker, taking him down with your right arm and balisong butt (6).

DEFENSE WITH A CLOSED BALISONG

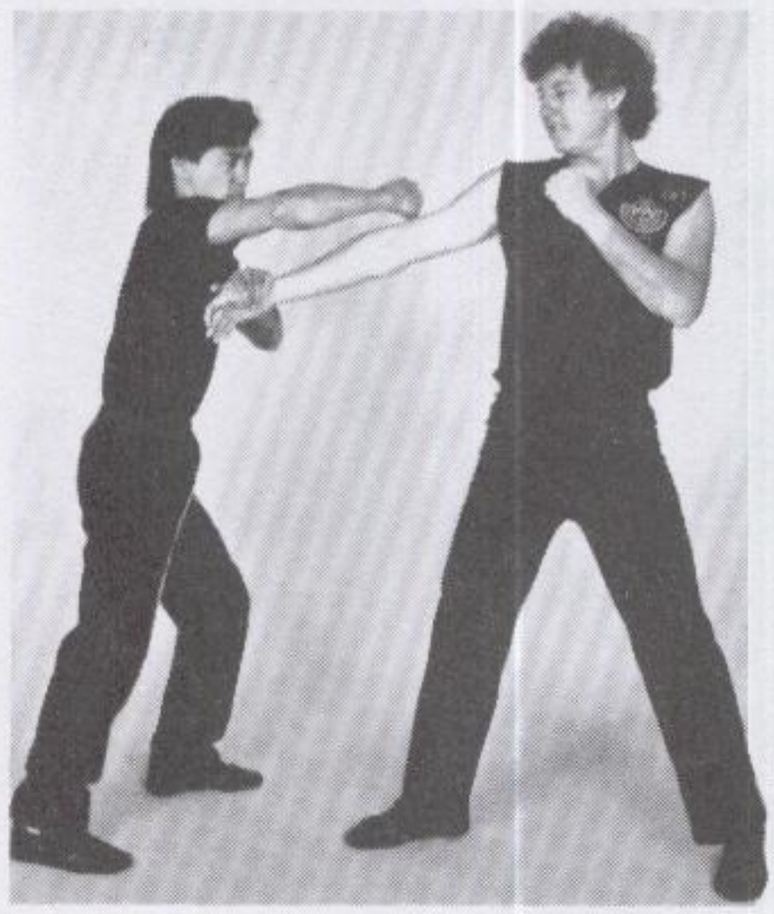


1

2

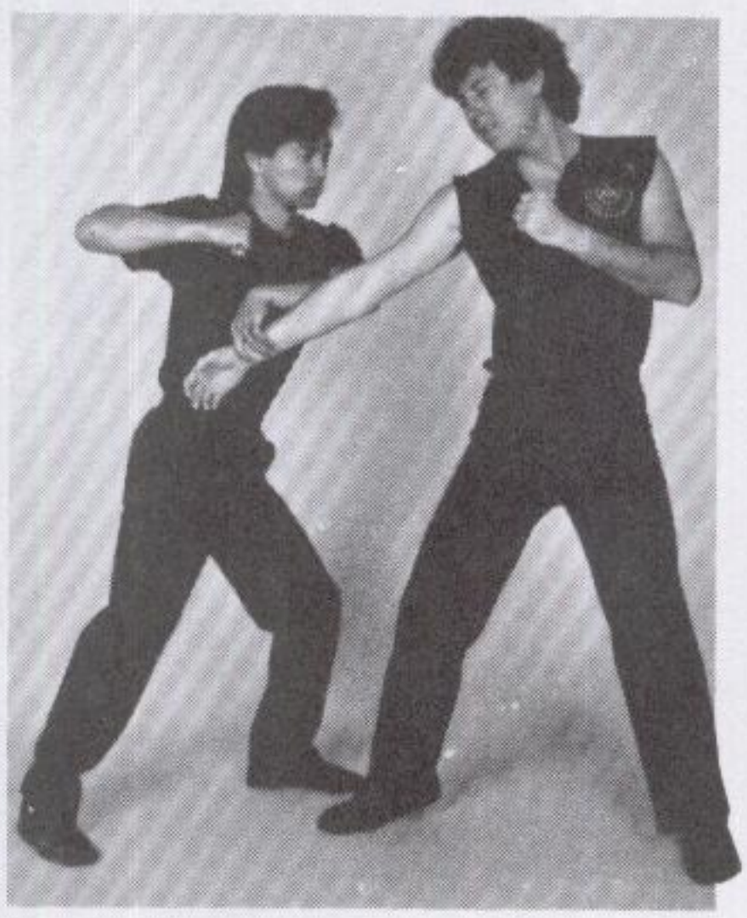
3

Your attacker throws a right jab. Angle to your left, catch his wrist with your left hand and smash his knuckles with the right balisong butt (1 & 2). Continue your arm motion for a right elbow smash (3).



4

5



6

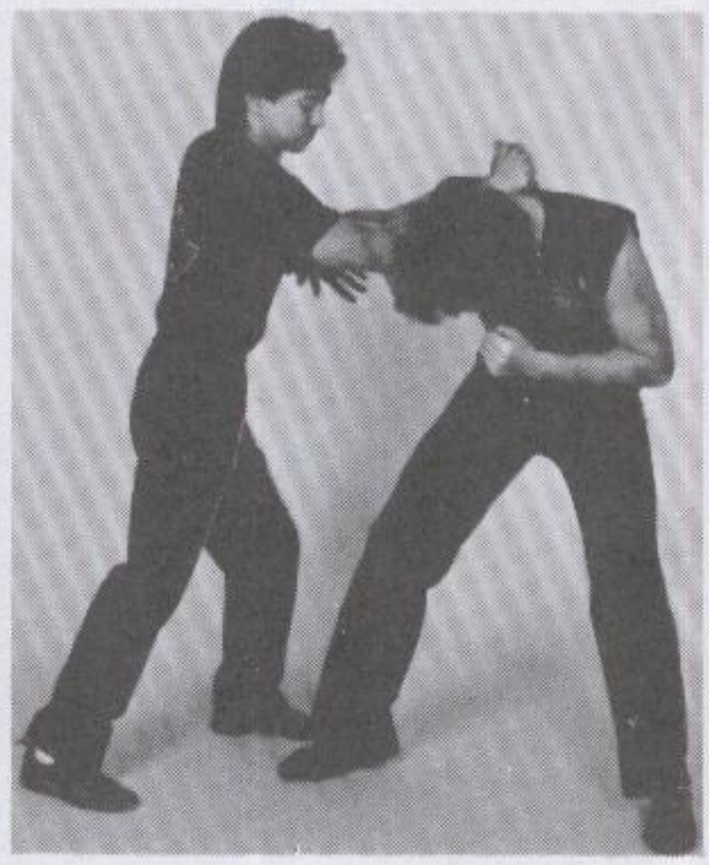
Retaining your opponent's wrist, hit his tricep or elbow with your right balisong butt (4). Switch to a right wrist grab (applying pressure with the balisong), simultaneously sliding up his arm for an eye jab (5). Maintain control of your attacker's wrist with your left hand (6).

continued

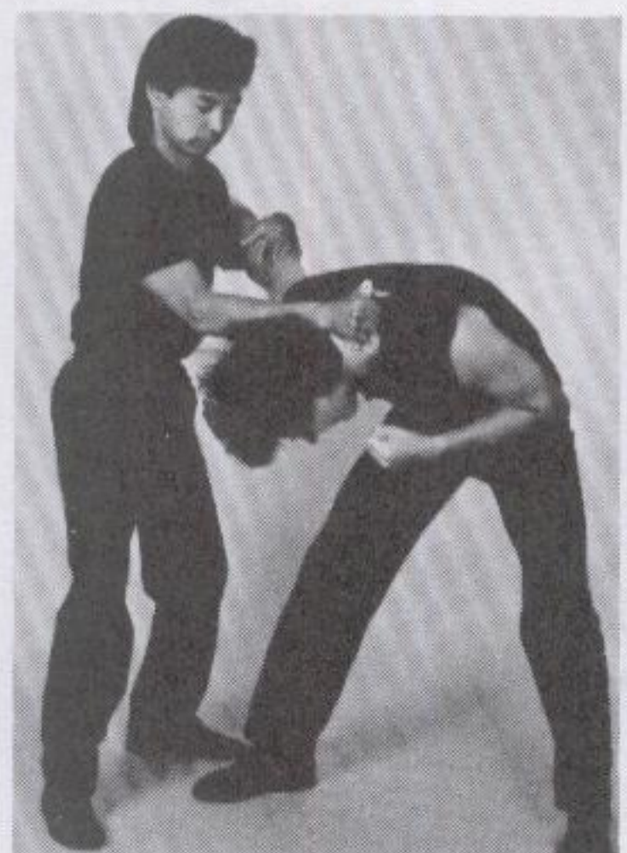
BALISONG DEFENSE

continued

7

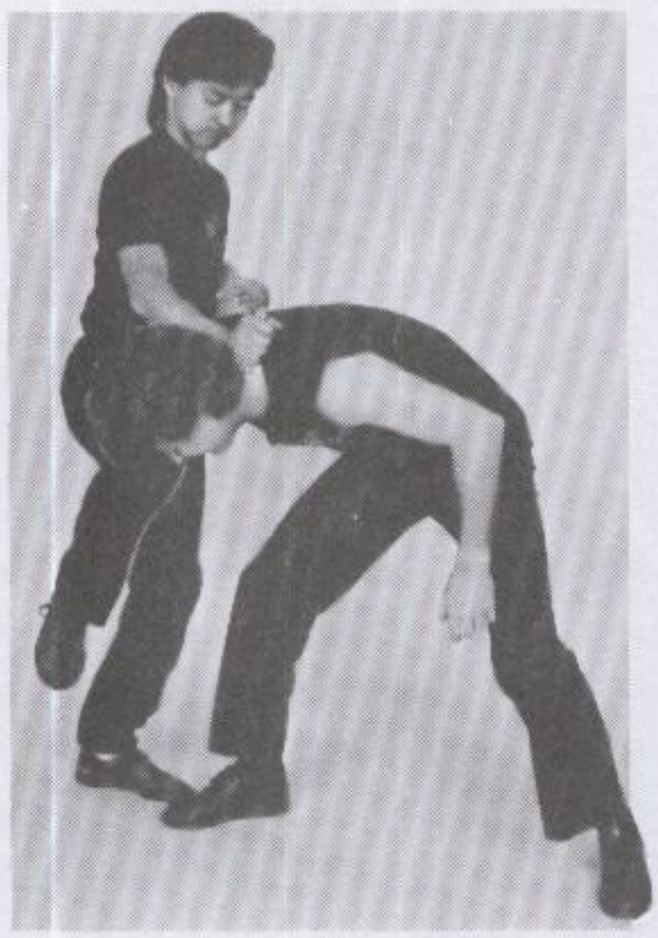


8



9

Smash your opponent's arm with your right elbow (7). Check and guide his right arm to your left in a clockwise motion, simultaneously hitting the back of his head with your right balisong butt (8). You now have an arm-bar lock and neck restraint (9).



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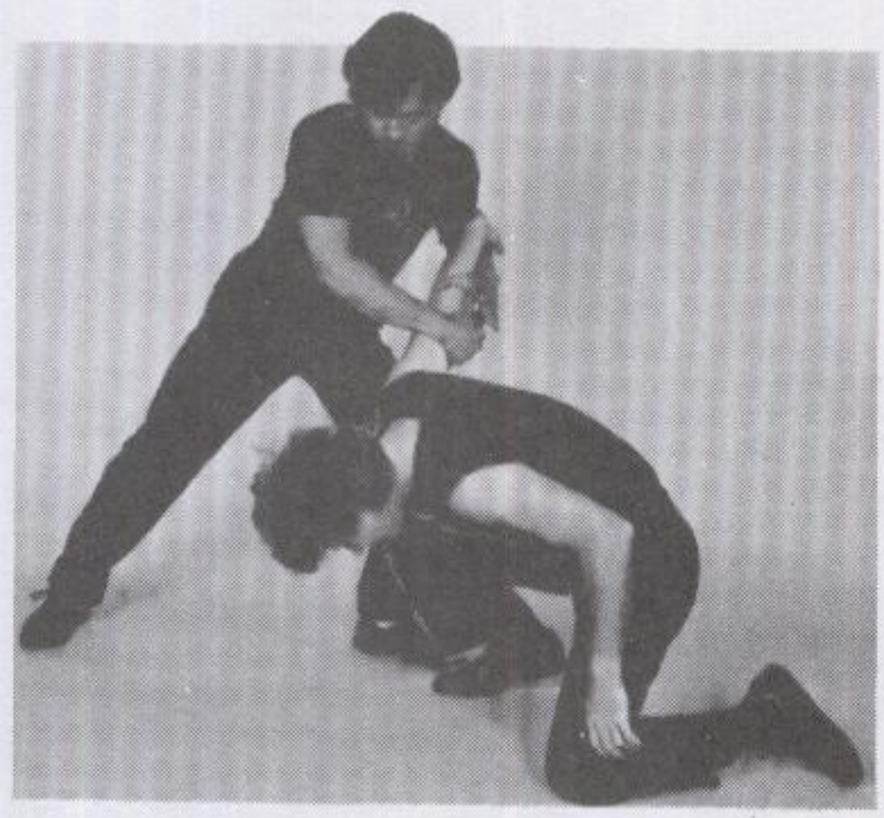
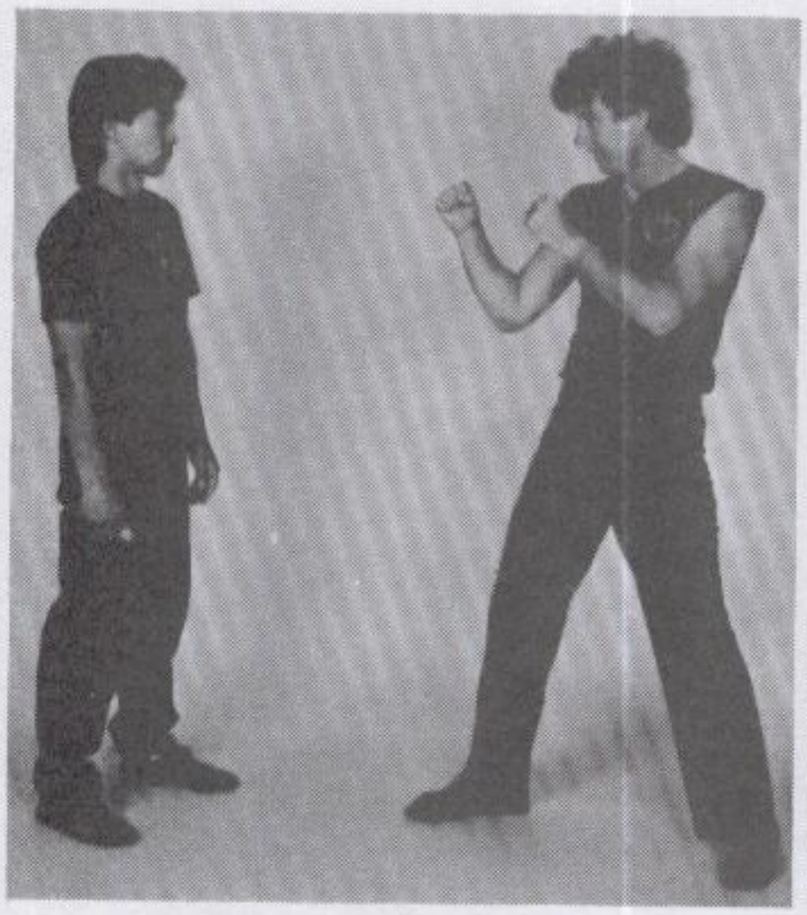


11

If your attacker still wants to struggle, knee him in the face (10), and pull him down (11 & 12).

12

DEFENSE WITH A CLOSED BALISONG



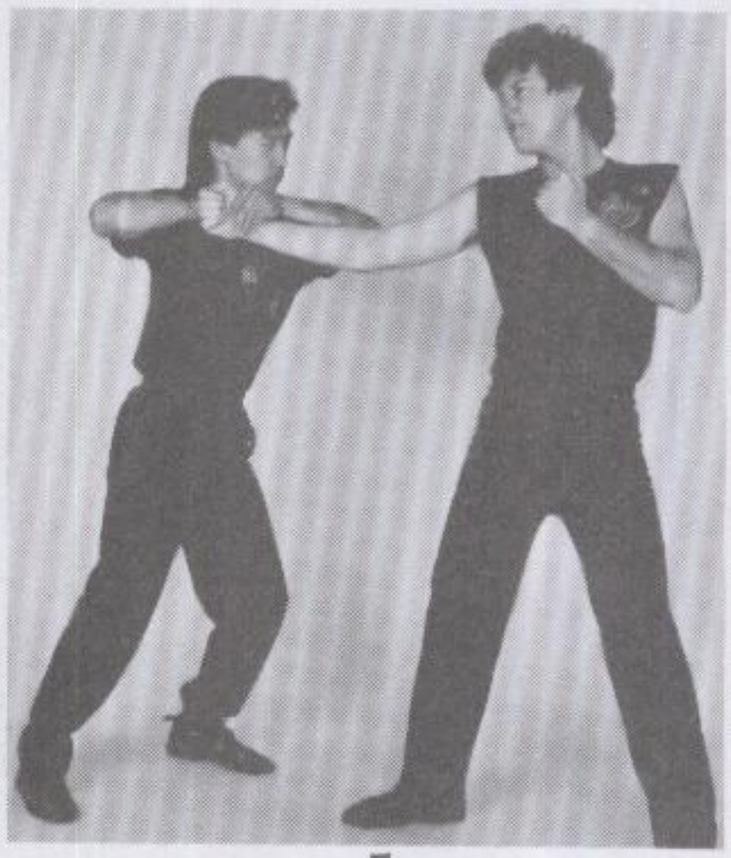
1

2

3

Your attacker throws a right jab (1). Angle to your left, checking his right hand with your left hand. Simultaneously hit his bicep with the tang of your balisong (2). Sandwiching his right arm, drag and scrape the balisong tang all the way down the inside of his arm (3).

4

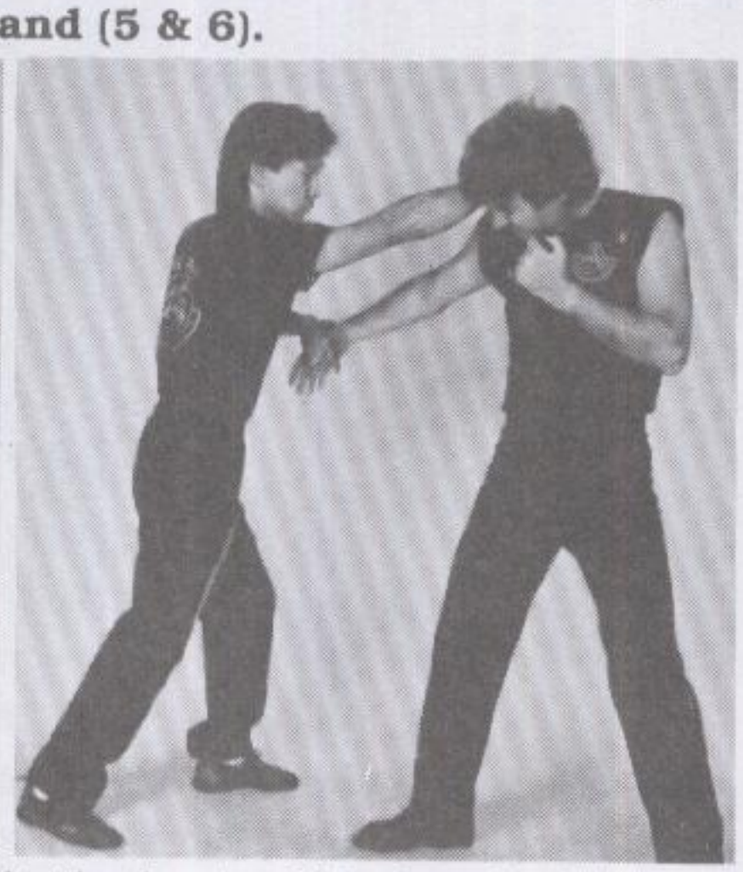


5

6

Slide up for an eye jab (4). Bring your left hand back for a wrist grab and perform a right elbow smash to his hand (5 & 6).

7



8

Jerk his arm back to your left and hit the back of his head with the right balisong butt (7 & 8).

continued

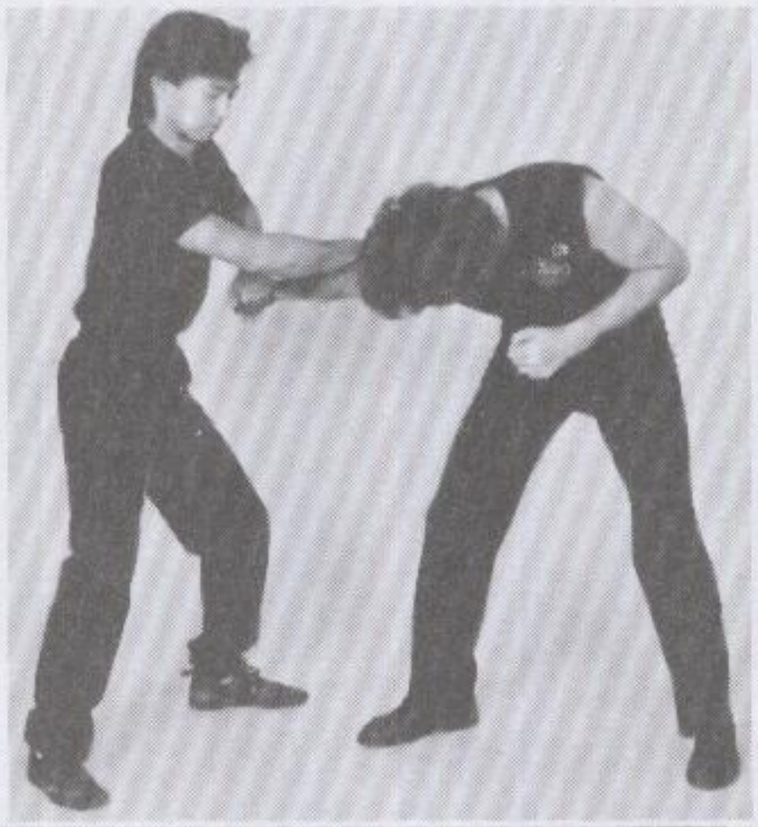
BALISONG DEFENSE

continued

Retaining control of his left arm (9), smash his elbow with the balisong butt (10), and go to a bent arm lock (11).

9

10



11

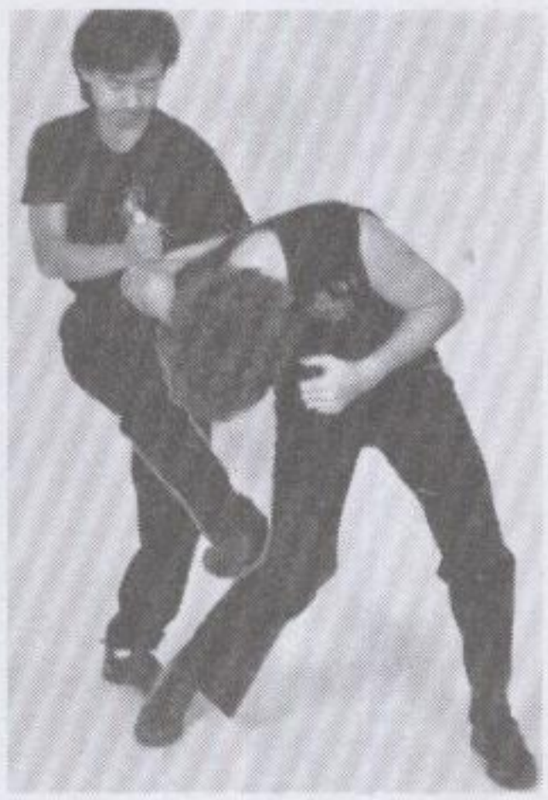
9A

10A

11A

9A, 10A and 11A are reverse views of technique (9, 10 & 11).

12

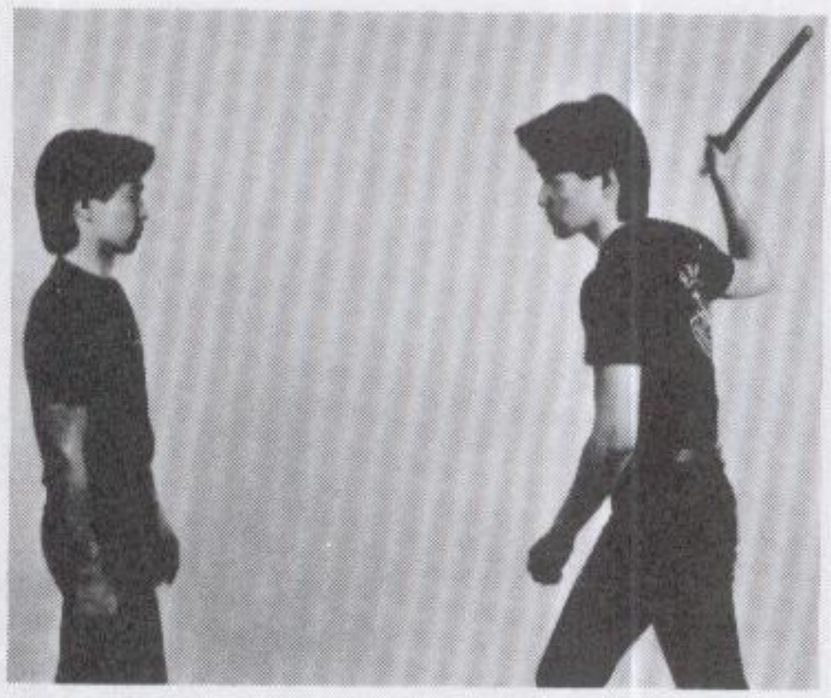


13

14

If more restraint is needed, finish with a downward kick to the knee and a snap kick to the face (12, 13 & 14).

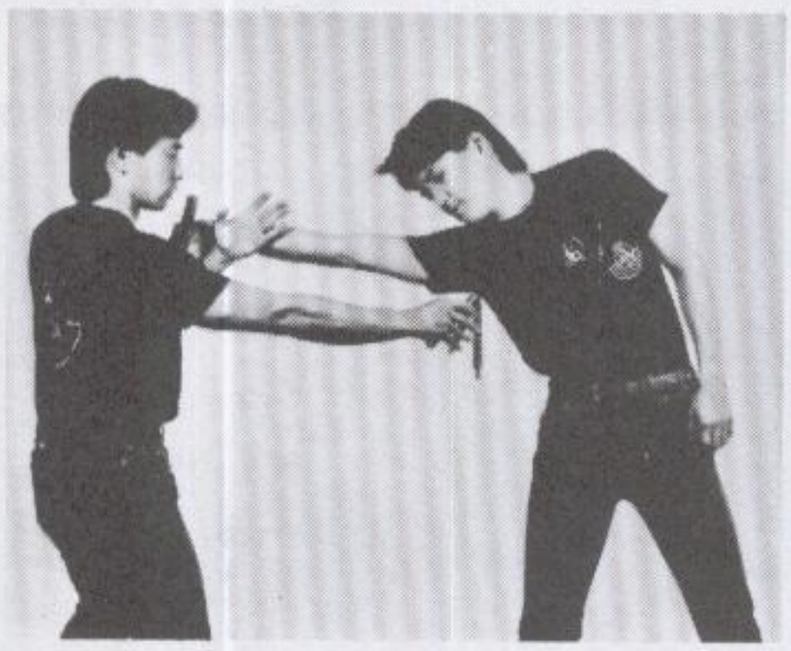
BALISONG DEFENSE



1

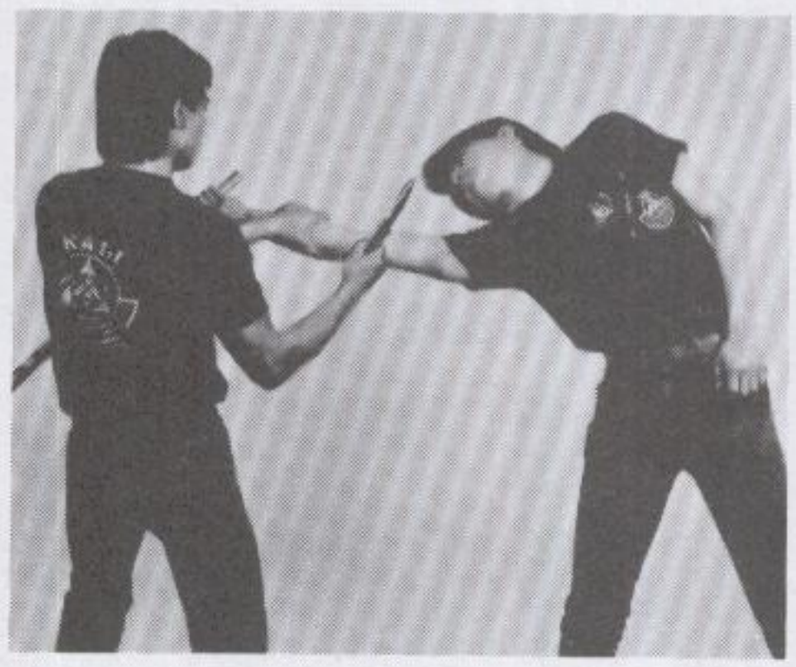
2

3



4

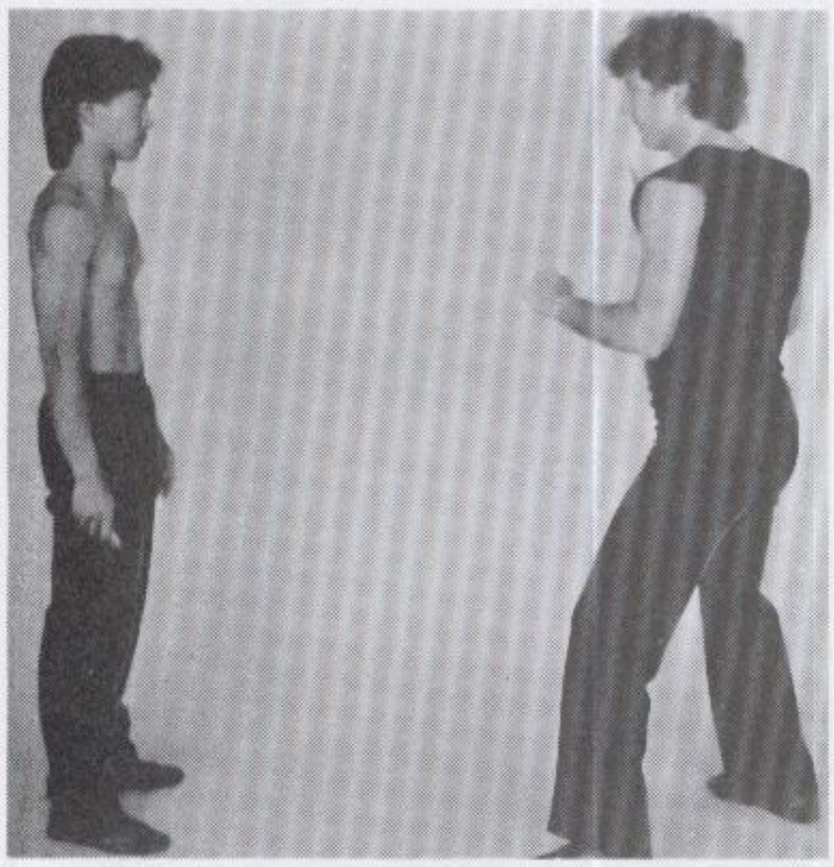
5



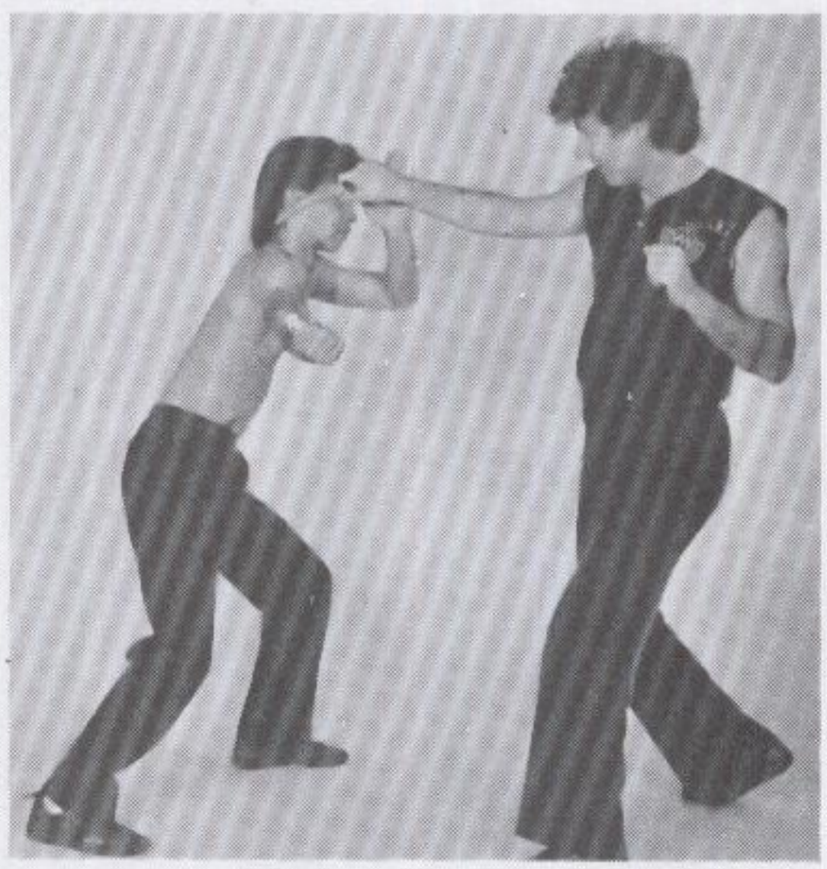
6

Your opponent attacks with a hit to the left side of your head (1). Angle to your right and check his weapon hand. Drive your balisong tang into his tricep or armpit area (2 & 3). Simultaneously rotate your arm in a counter-clockwise circle around his arm and stick to form an arm lock. Swing balisong handle up, flailing opponent to the chin. Pull him off balance and open your balisong to hold him at bay (4, 5 & 6).

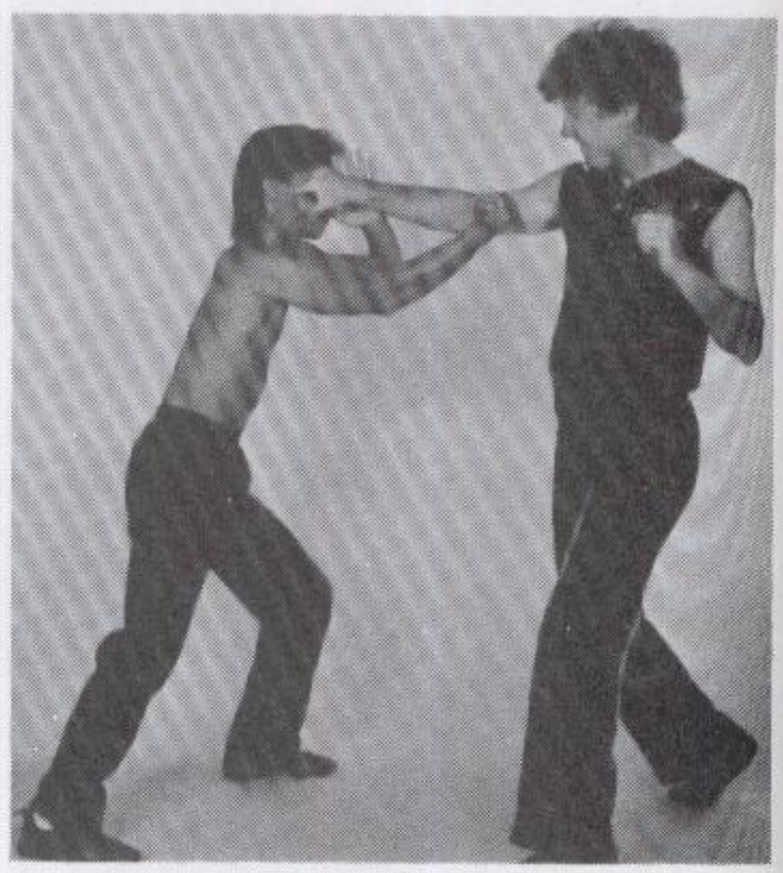
DEFENSE WITH A BALISONG



1

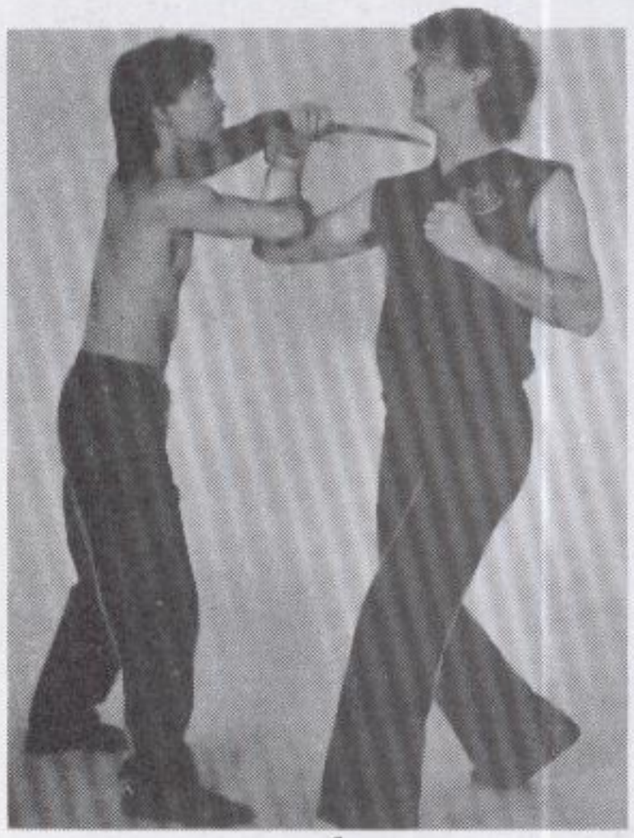


2



3

Your attacker thrusts diagonally at you with a hatchet grip knife thrust (1). Angle to your left to avoid the thrust, check his right hand with your left and simultaneously hit his bicep wtih your right balisong butt (2 & 3).



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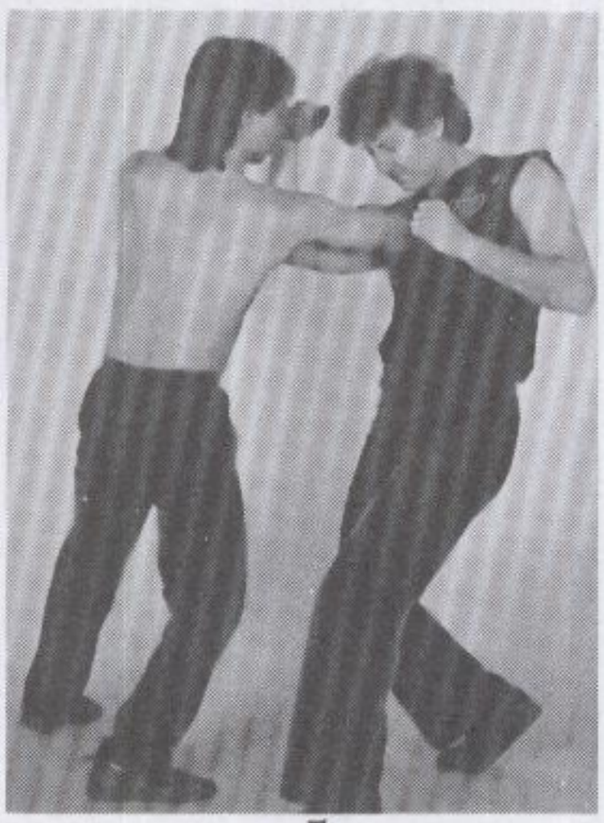
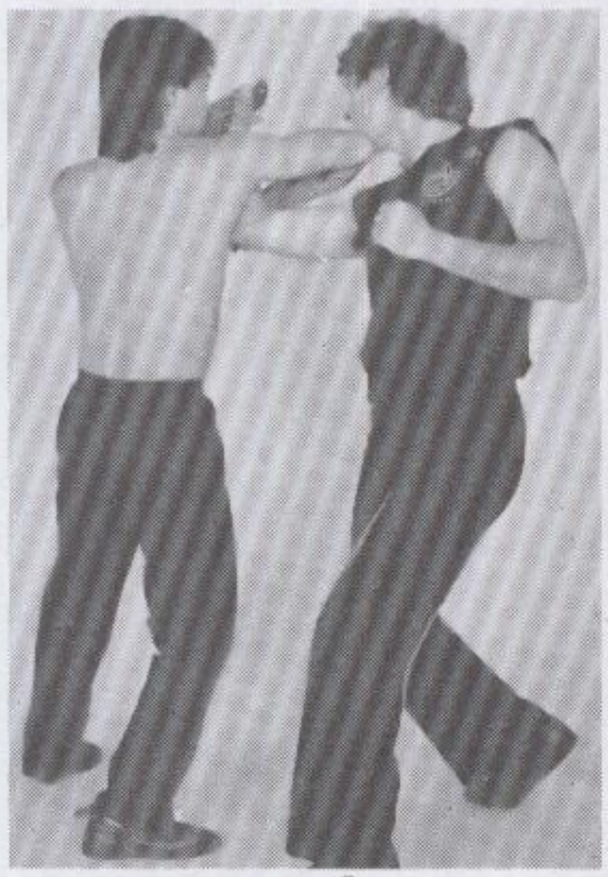
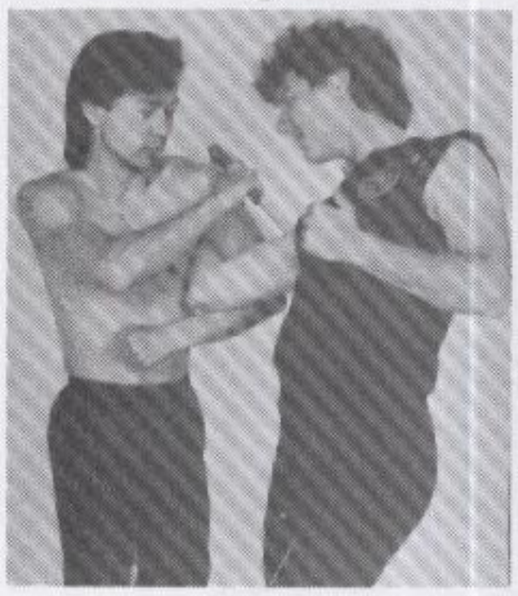


5



6

7



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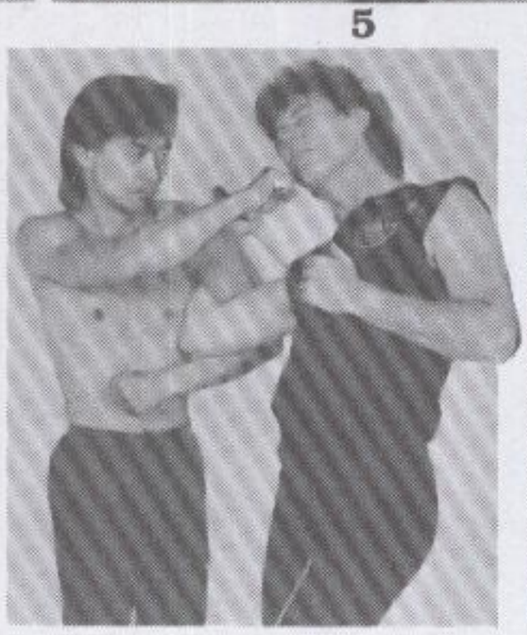

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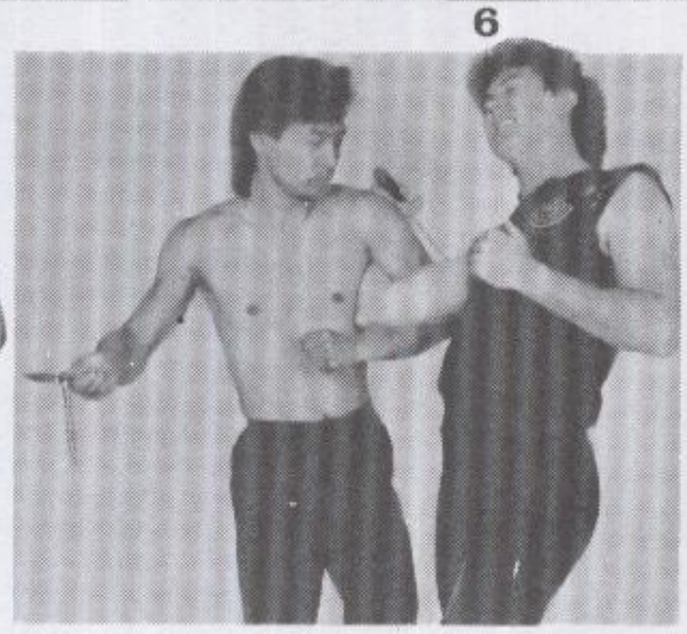
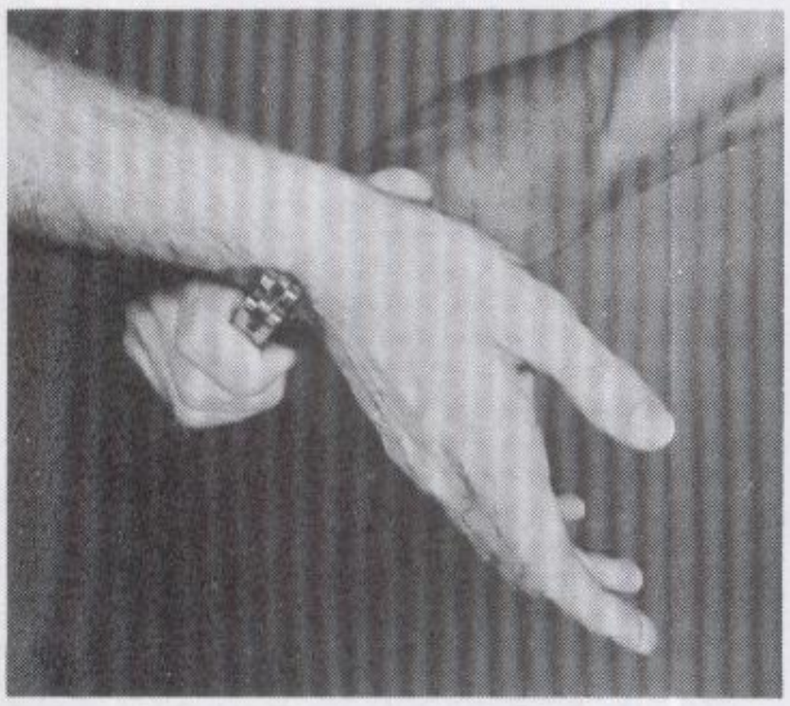


10

11

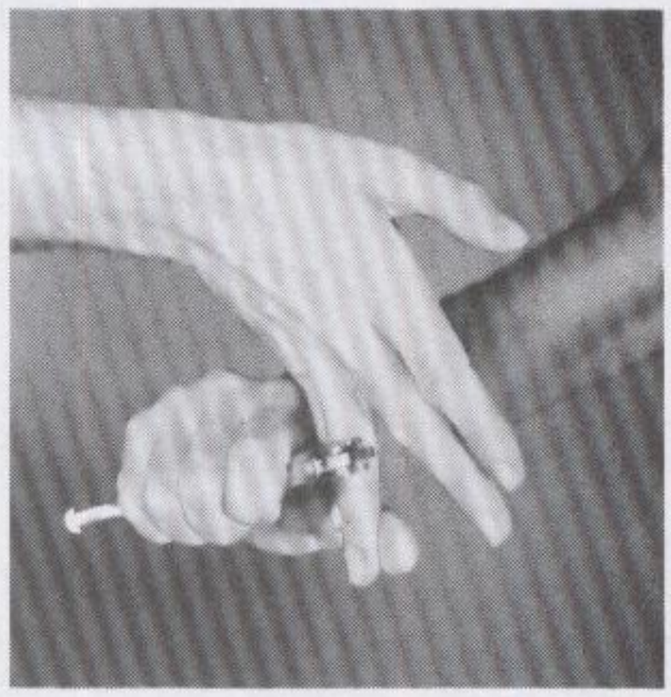
Move to a bent arm lock, forcing his blade inward (4). Controlling his knife hand, elbow smash his chest (5) and continue your elbow motion for a face strike (6). Apply even more pressure to the attacker's knife hand to form a secure arm lock (7 & 8). Punch to his face with a hand-loaded balisong (9). Open the balisong to prevent further resistance (10 & 11).

RESTRAINING HOLDS

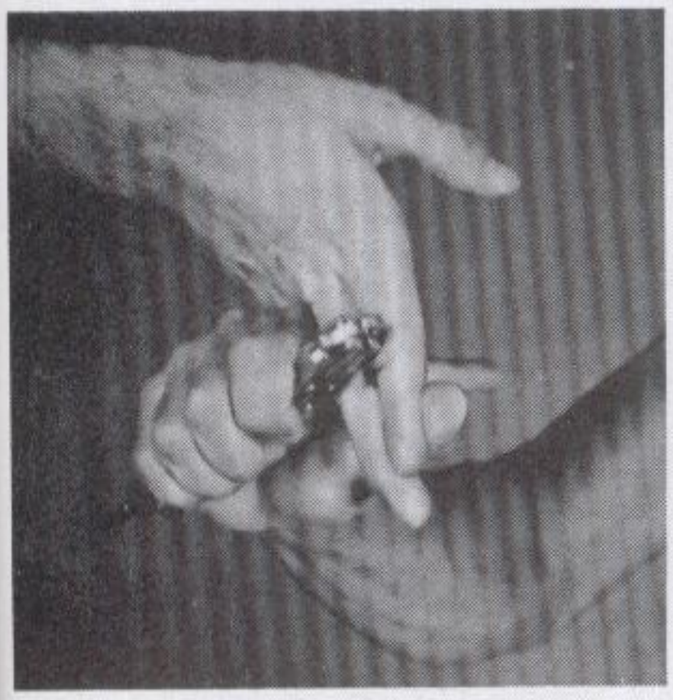


Use your thumb and a closed balisong to apply pressure to the wrist joint (palm up).

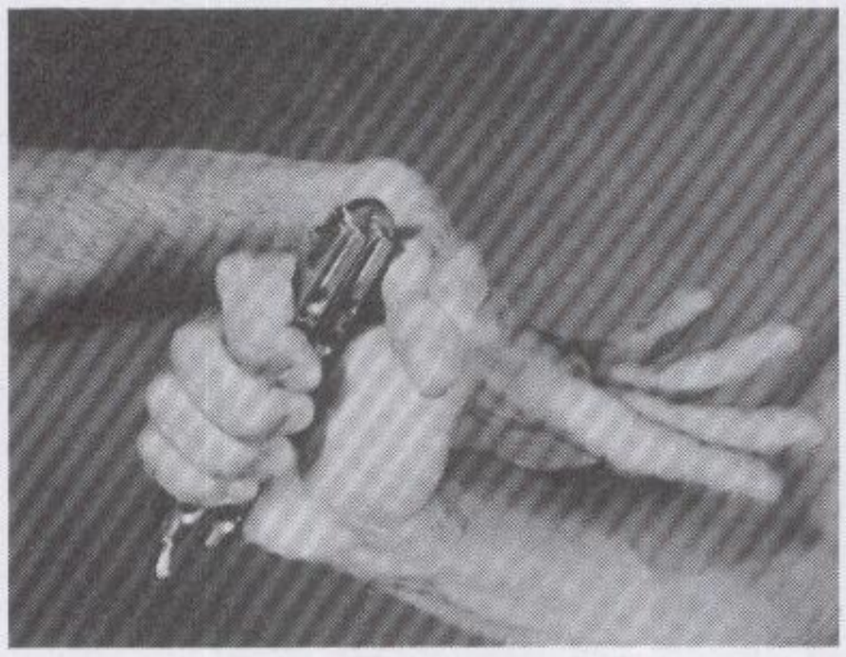
Apply pressure to the wrist joint (palm down).



Apply pressure to the third and fourth finger joints.

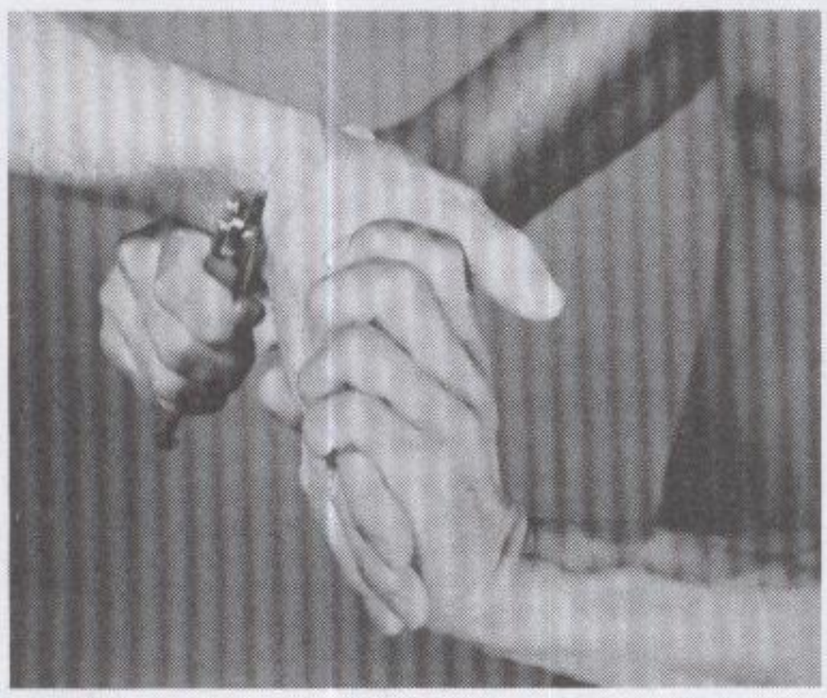


Apply pressure to the index and middle finger joints.



Apply pressure to the thumb joint.

Lock the arm and use your balisong handles to pinch his tricep muscles.



Apply pressure to the wrist joint with your thumb and closed balisong, while forcing the palm back with your other hand.

Twist your opponent's fingers, while applying pressure at the wrist joint with your thumb and closed balisong.

CATALOG

This section initially seemed less important than the rest of the book, but with the current turn of events, it may be the most valuable section from a collector's point of view. The prices shown are retail prices suggested by the makers and manufacturers in their most recent catalogs and price lists; all prices may be subject to change.

The knives, manufacturers and importers in this catalog represent the most popular models available at time of publication, and by no means imply that these are the only knives available. There are many other fine knives, manufacturers and importers that time and circumstances didn't allow us to include.

Anyone who has ever bought or manipulated a balisong eventually becomes a collector. Like collectors of comic books, beer cans, Coca-Cola memorabilia, baseball cards or stamps, you just can't stop buying them. The import ban will eventually create a supply shortage, since all butterflies are subject to breakage, wear and aging, no matter how well made. So the law of supply and demand should increase the value of your knives.

All collectible balisongs should be preserved in as good a condition as possible and stored in their original boxes. For the serious collector, the National Knife Collectors Association (NKCA) has published a set of standards for grading old knives.

N.K.C.A. GRADES

MINT: Absolutely new, exactly as shipped from the factory. A Mint knife has no blemishes. It was never carried, never sharpened, and never used. A Mint knife may be lightly oiled and wiped with a soft rag. Any harsher cleaning will turn it into a Near Mint knife, with a 1/3 to 1/2 reduction in value.

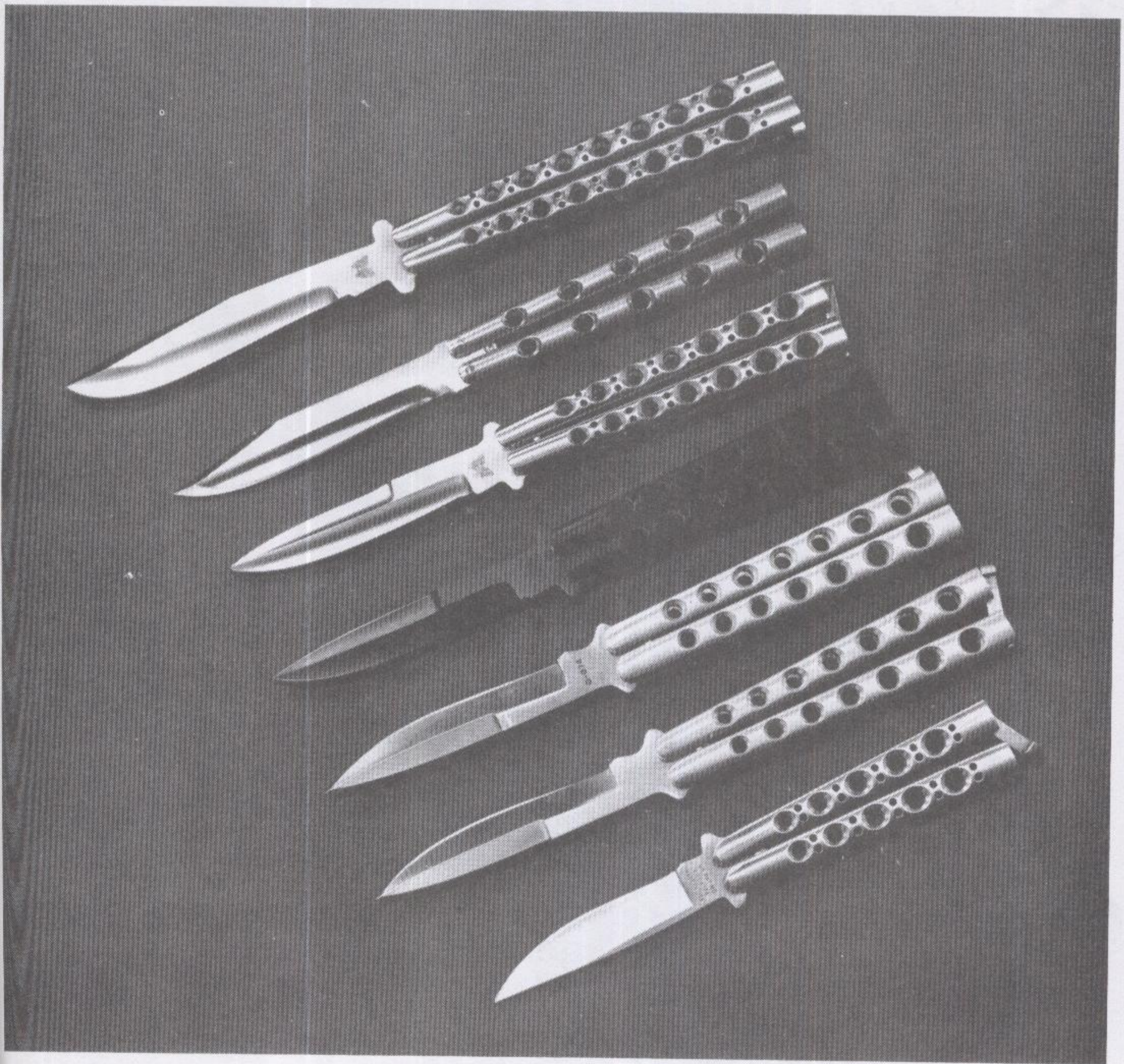
NEAR MINT: An unused knife with a few minor blemishes. It may show slight carry wear or age checking on the handles. The blades may have been lightly honed or show slight discoloration, even a tiny rust spot or two. Any original blade etch must be present and clear. Most of the original finish must be present.

EXCELLENT: Up to 10% blade wear. All blades "walk and talk." (To "walk" is to operate smoothly under tension from the backspring. To "talk" is to snap crisply when opened or shut. A blade that does not walk and talk is said to be "lazy.") Blades or handles may be discolored or cleaned.

VERY GOOD or GOOD: Up to 25% blade wear. Slight cracks or chips in the handles. May have one lazy blade. All stampings clear. No replaced parts.

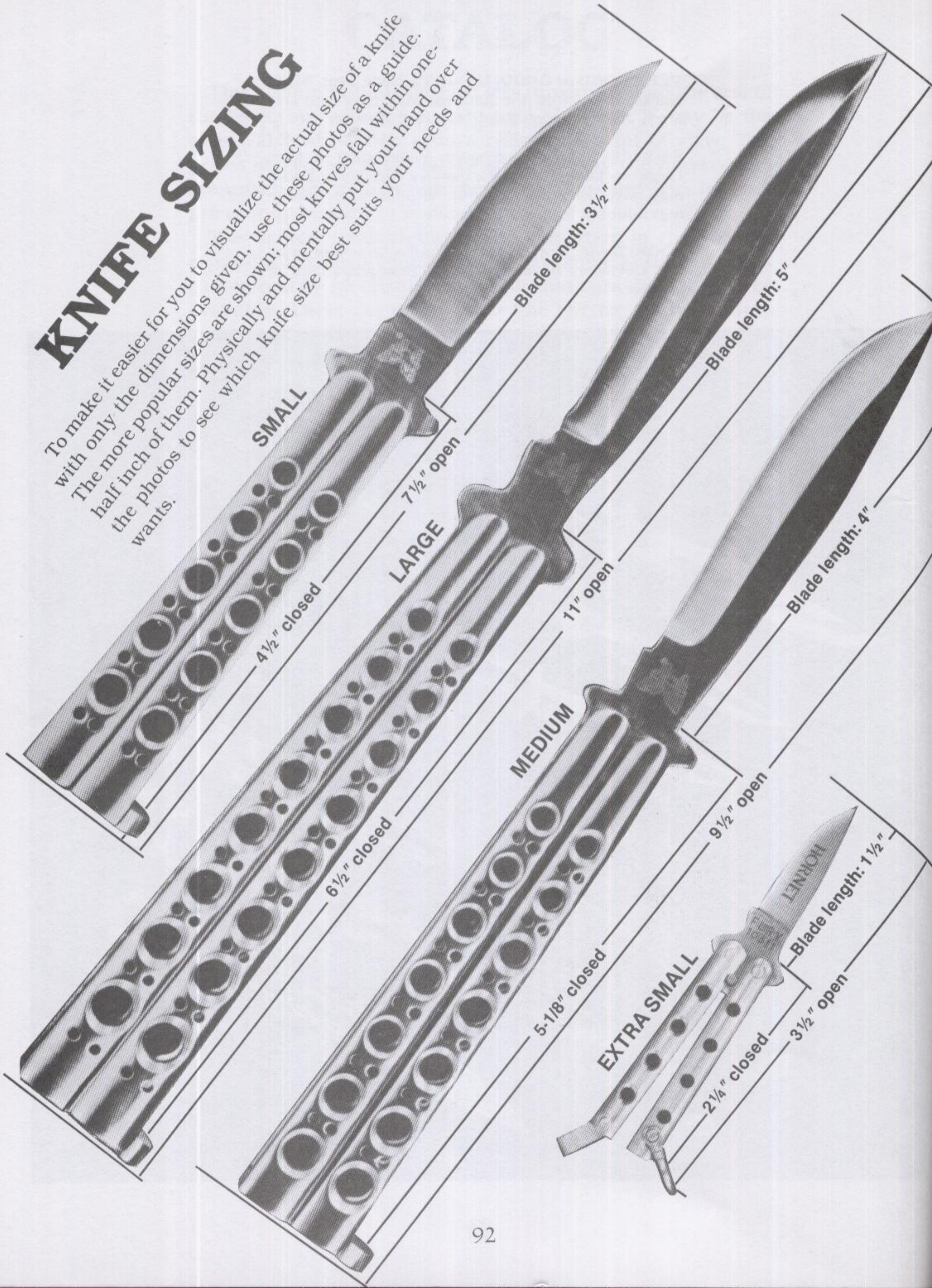
FAIR: Up to 50% blade wear. Blades may be lazy. Large cracks or chips in the handles. Handles or blades may have been replaced with original parts. Stampings faint but legible.

POOR: Blades heavily worn. Handles broken or missing. Obviously replaced blade(s). Stampings faint or illegible.



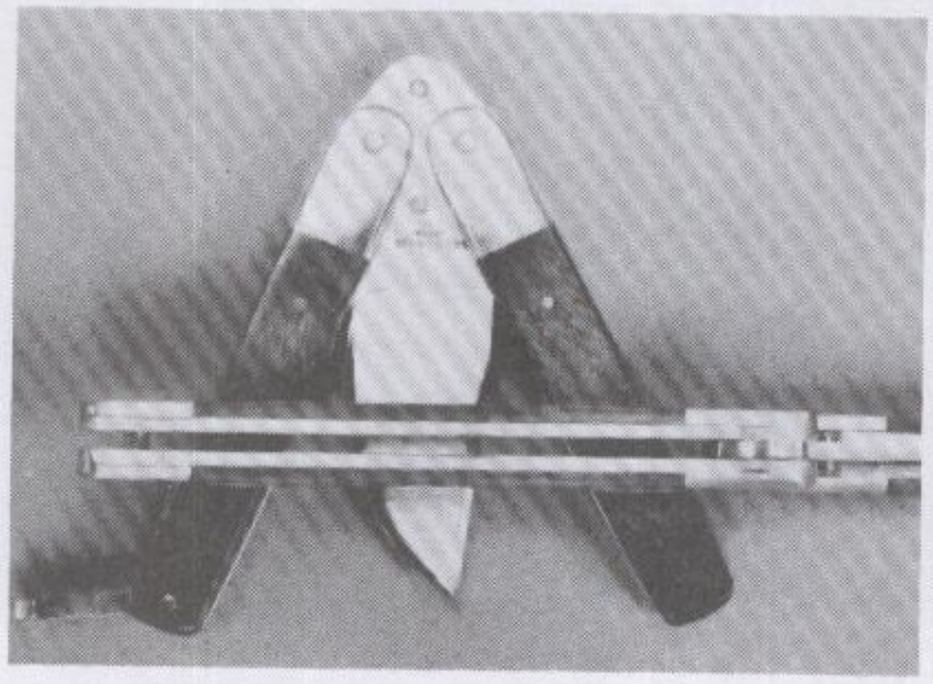
KNIFE SIZING

To make it easier for you to visualize the actual size of a knife with only the dimensions given, use these photos as a guide. The more popular sizes are shown; most knives fall within one-half inch of them. Physically and mentally put your hand over the photos to see which knife size best suits your needs and wants.



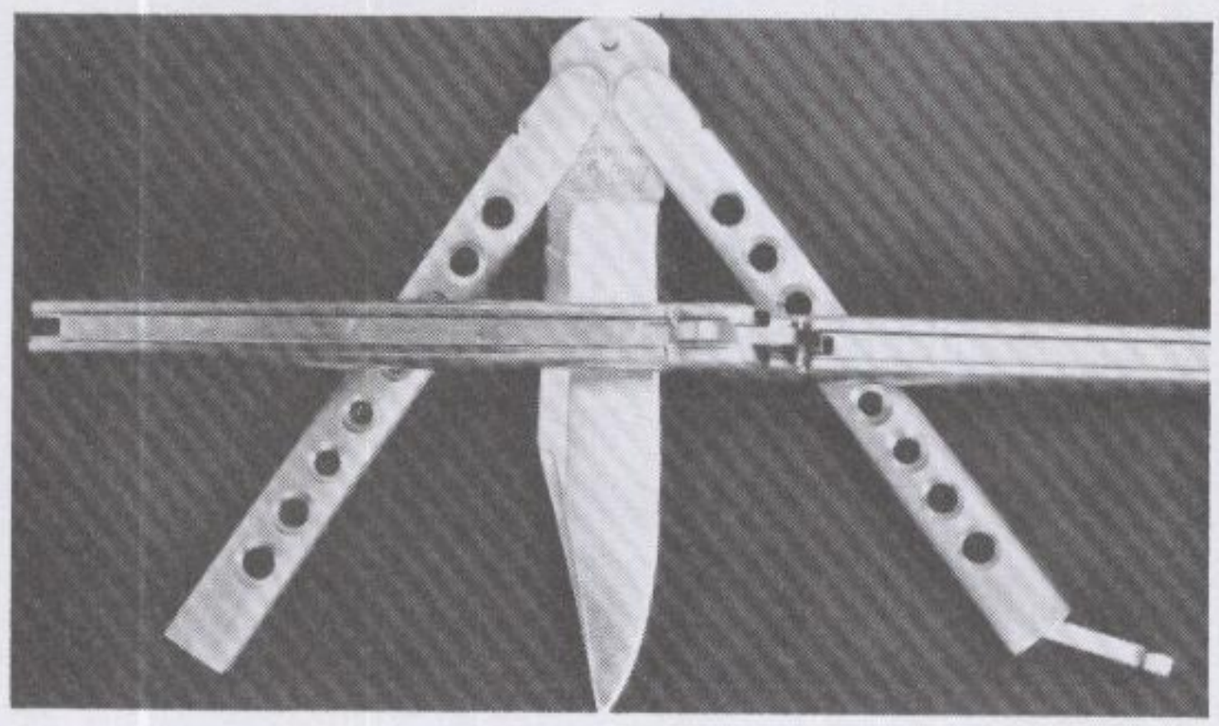
HANDLE CONSTRUCTION

There are three basic types of butterfly handle construction:



OPEN-EDGED HANDLES

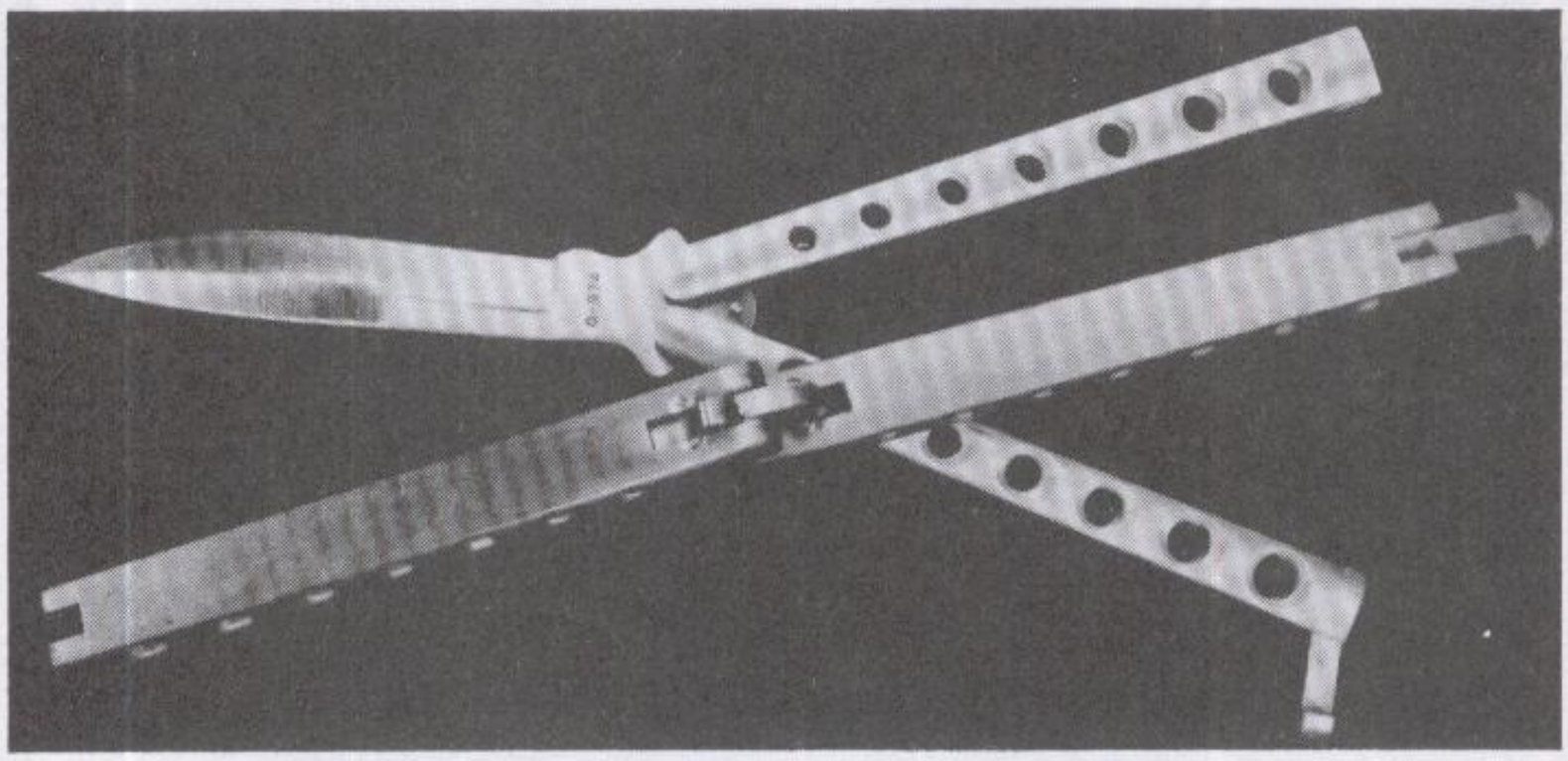
The open or "see-through" handles began as a novel way for knife makers to use up their leftover parts. Regular pocket knife handles are made up into butterfly knives. The blade is stopped in the closed position by a second tang pin that sits in front of the rear tang pin. The advantage of this configuration is that it is easier to clean, especially for a working knife, such as a skinner.



SANDWICHED LININGS

This was the traditional method the Filipinos used to construct balisongs. Bolsters and handle material were attached to the slotted brass lining to form the handle.

continued



SOLID HANDLES

The solid, one-piece handles are by far the strongest. Cheaper models are die-cast, while the more expensive versions are milled out of solid metal bars.

THE LATCH

The latch is an integral part of the balisong design. It makes the knife pocketable in the closed position and secures it in its functioning mode. Latch variations include location and construction material. There is also a latchless model.

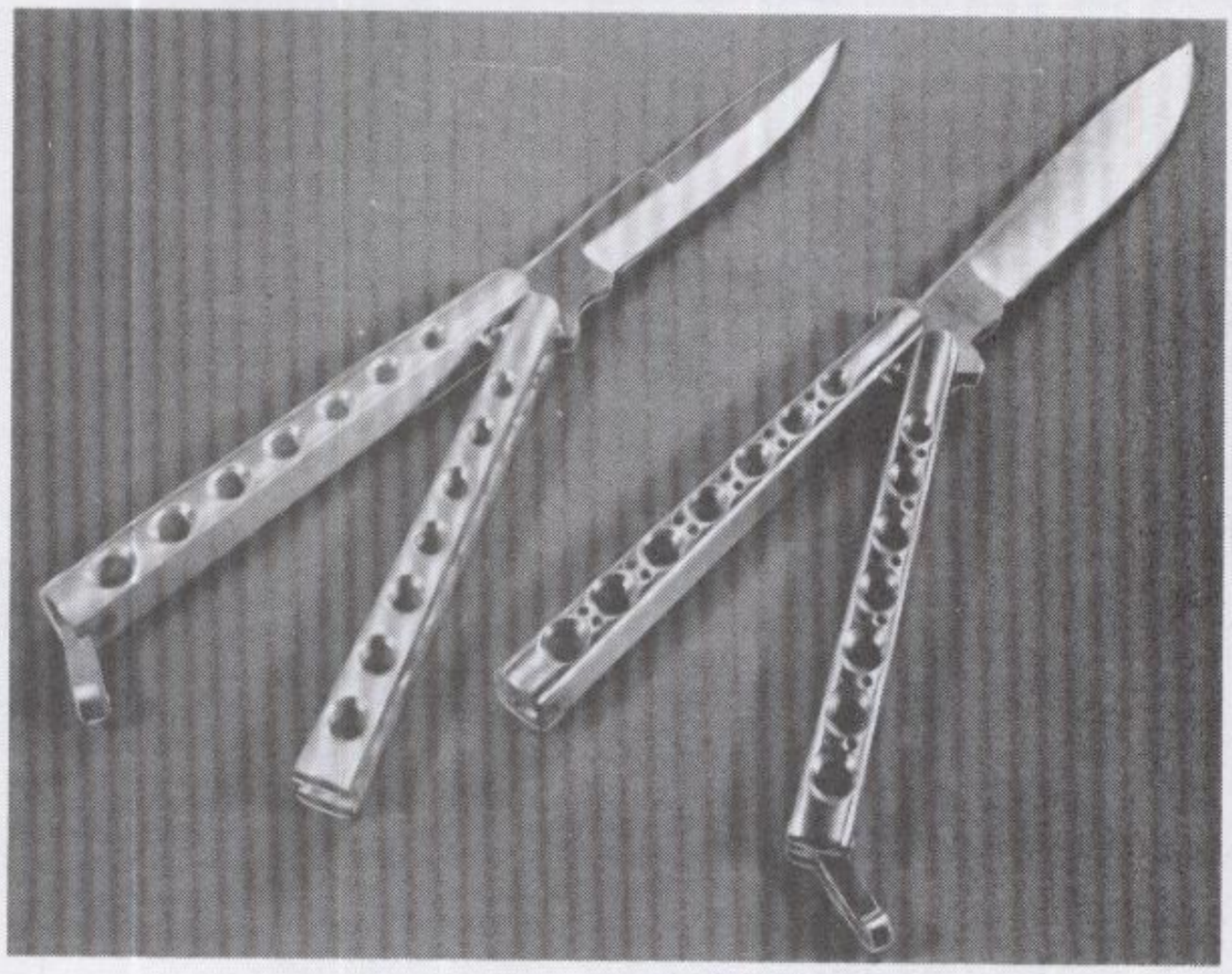
The traditional latch location is on the "safe" holding handle. This configuration has been known to be called the *Manila* style latch. This latch configuration is used on Taylor Cutlery's best-selling Manila Folder® series and throughout their extensive line of butterfly knives. People who began training with a Manila latch prefer this style.

A second and more common latch location is in the handle opposite the "safe" holding handle. This configuration is known as the *Batangas* style latch. Most people prefer this style since it is easier to manipulate and pivot the knife without the latch in the holding handle. It's a good idea to get used to both latch types though, since most butterfly enthusiasts want to collect as many different knives as possible.

continued

Most latches are constructed of brass or stainless steel. Aluminum is sometimes used if the handles or bolsters are also made of aluminum. Latch material isn't that important since the latch is used mainly for securing the knife when not in use. During manipulation, the knife is seldom locked in the open position, unless, of course, it is being used as a tool or as a working knife.

On special order and at additional cost, most custom knife makers can make a latchless model. Some martial artists prefer it for extra speed, since it eliminates messing with a latch at all. The limitation for this configuration is that it is no longer pocketable, because the handles can separate and expose the naked blade. Also, it can be difficult to tell which handle you are grasping. The user of a latchless model is usually proficient enough to manipulate a balisong safely, no matter which handle he picks up.



Manila style latch

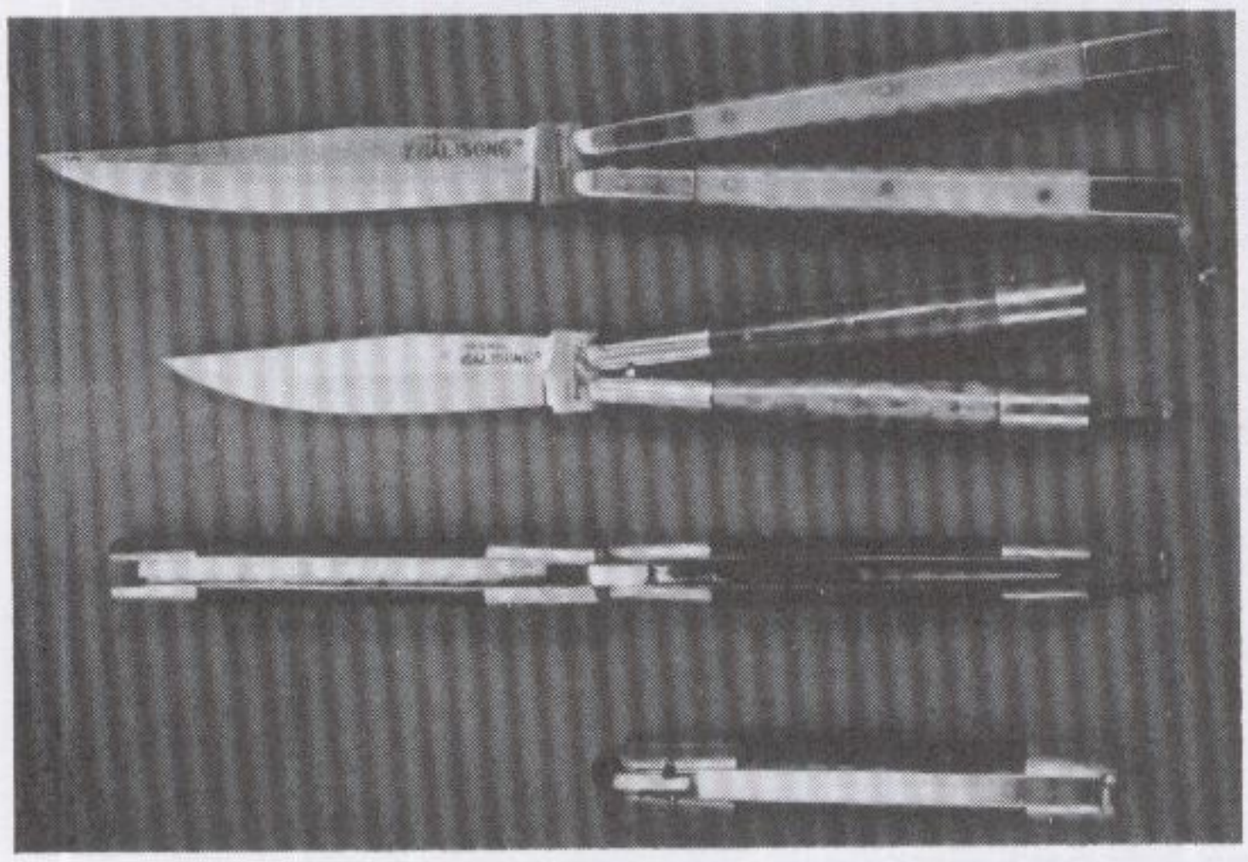
Batangas style latch

PHILIPPINE BALISONGS

These balisongs are made in the Philippines by native craftsmen and imported by Gutmann Cutlery. They have forged high-carbon steel clip blades, brass bolsters and a Batangas style latch. A wooden gift box and vertical nylon belt sheath accompany each knife. These usually come off the boat rather tight and must be broken in with oil, flexing and continual manipulation.

Model 11-524

Model 11-520



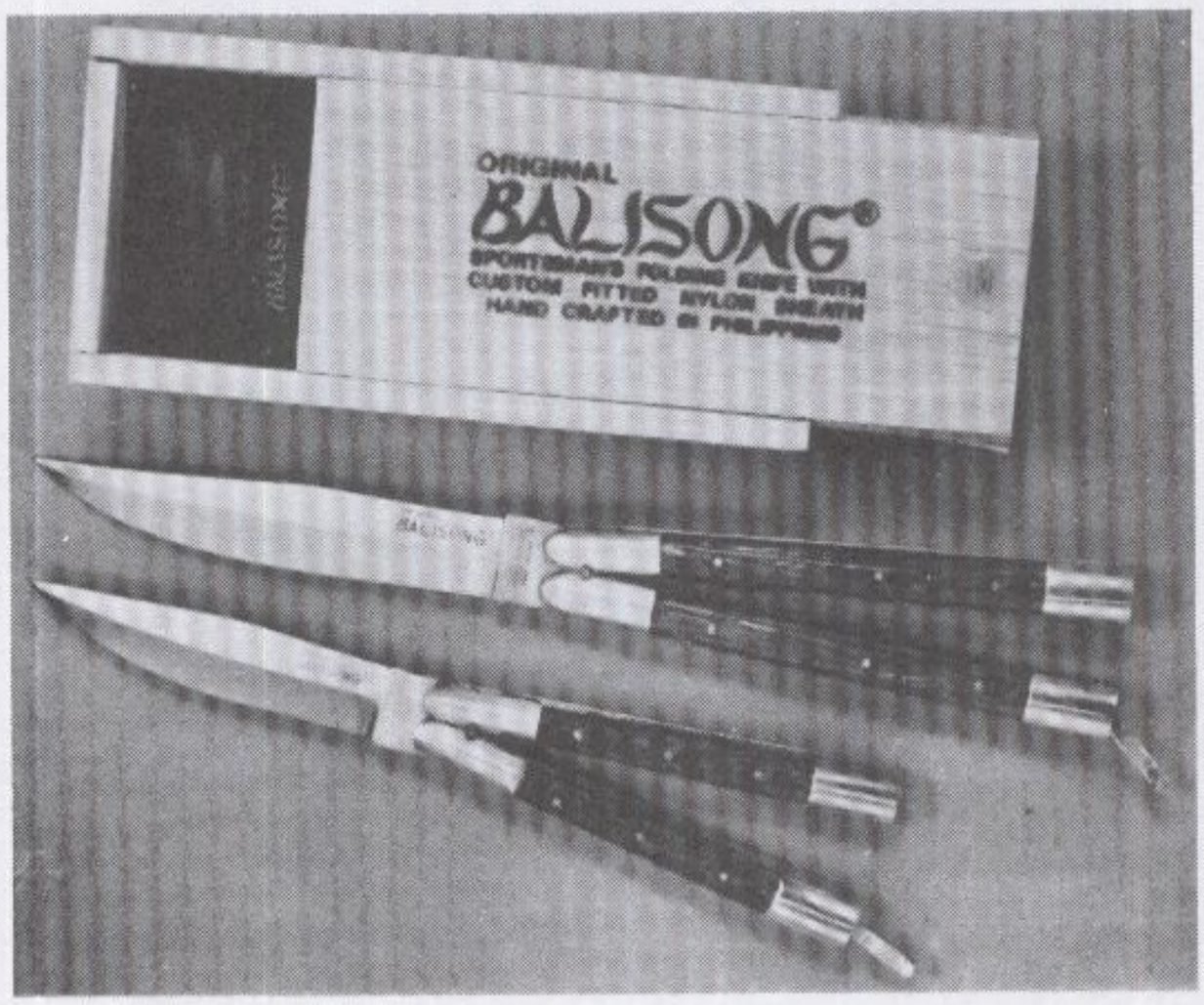
Model: 11-524
Weight: 4½ oz.
Size: 5″ closed, 9-1/8″ open
Blade length: 4″
Handles: Beveled square (semi-flat) polished bone
Price: $40.00

Model: 11-520
Weight: 3½ oz.
Size: 4¼″ closed, 7-3/8″ open
Blade length: 3¼″
Handles: Round polished bone
Price: $30.00

The side views show the sandwiched lining construction.

Model 11-527

Model 11-523

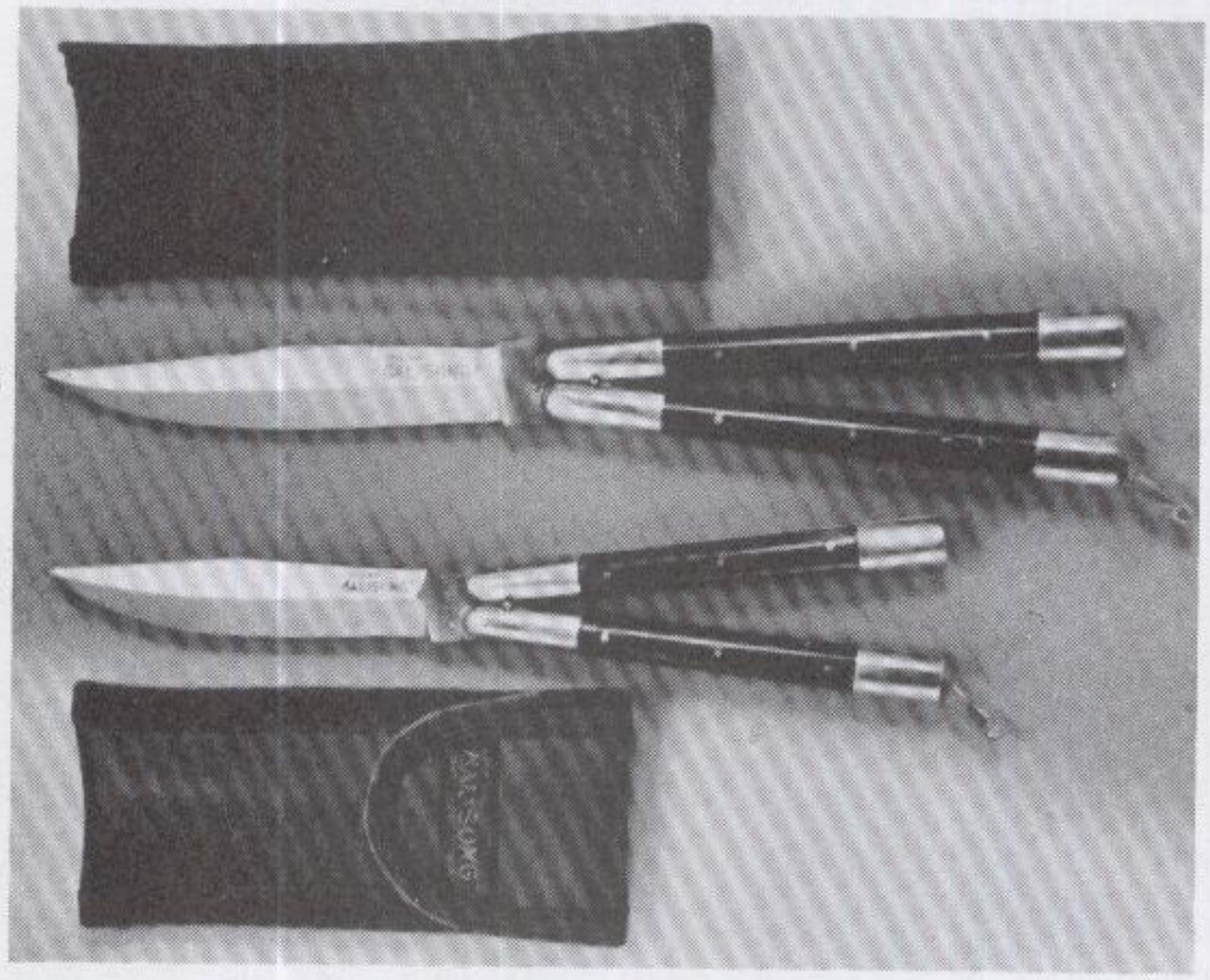


Model: 11-527
Weight: 4 oz.
Size: 5″ closed, 9-1/8″ open
Blade length: 4″
Handles: Round chico wood
Price: $40.00

Model: 11-523
Weight: 3 oz.
Size: 4¼″ closed, 7-3/8″ open
Blade length: 3¼″
Handles: Round chico wood
Price: $30.00

PHILIPPINE BALISONGS

continued

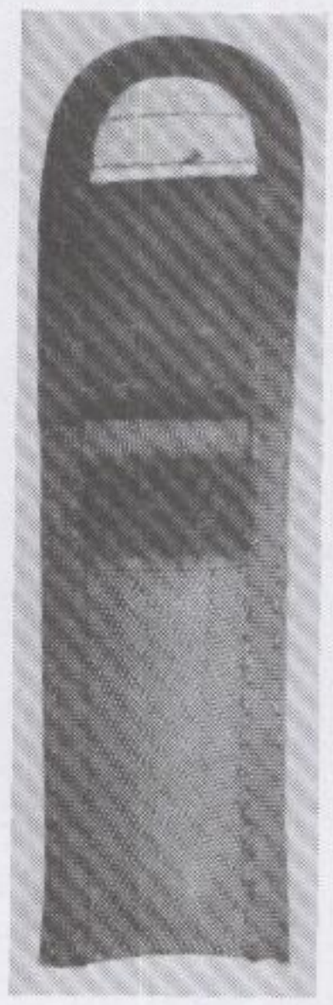


Model 11-526

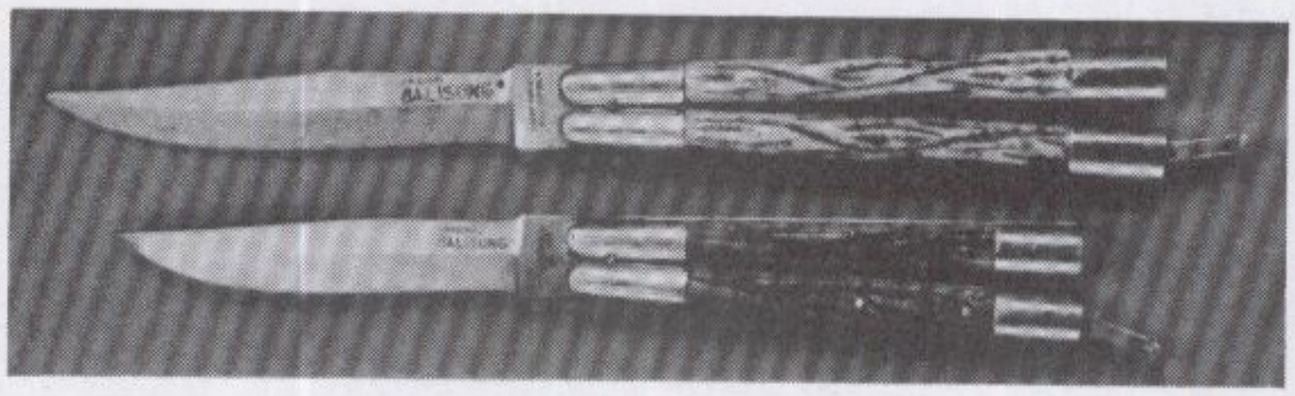
Model 11-522

Model: 11-526
Weight: 4½ oz.
Size: 5″ closed, 9-1/8″ open
Blade length: 4″
Handles: Round polished buffalo horn
Price: $40.00

Model: 11-522
Weight: 3½ oz.
Size: 4¼″ closed, 7½″ open
Blade length: 3¼″
Handle: Round polished buffalo horn
Price: $30.00



The nylon sheath has a Velcro fastener and mounts vertically on the belt.



Model 11-525

Model 11-521

Model: 11-525
Weight: 4 oz.
Size: 5″ closed, 9″ open
Blade length: 4″
Handles: Round bone stag
Price: $40.00

Model: 11-521
Weight: 3½ oz.
Size: 4-3/8″ closed, 7½″ open
Blade length: 3¼″
Handles: Round bone stag
Price: $30.00

VALOR CORPORATION OF FLORIDA

Since 1983 Valor Corporation has been the most prolific importer of butterfly knives with the largest selection of different models. Below are some examples of the company's extensive line.

THE SOLID STAINLESS HANDLE SERIES

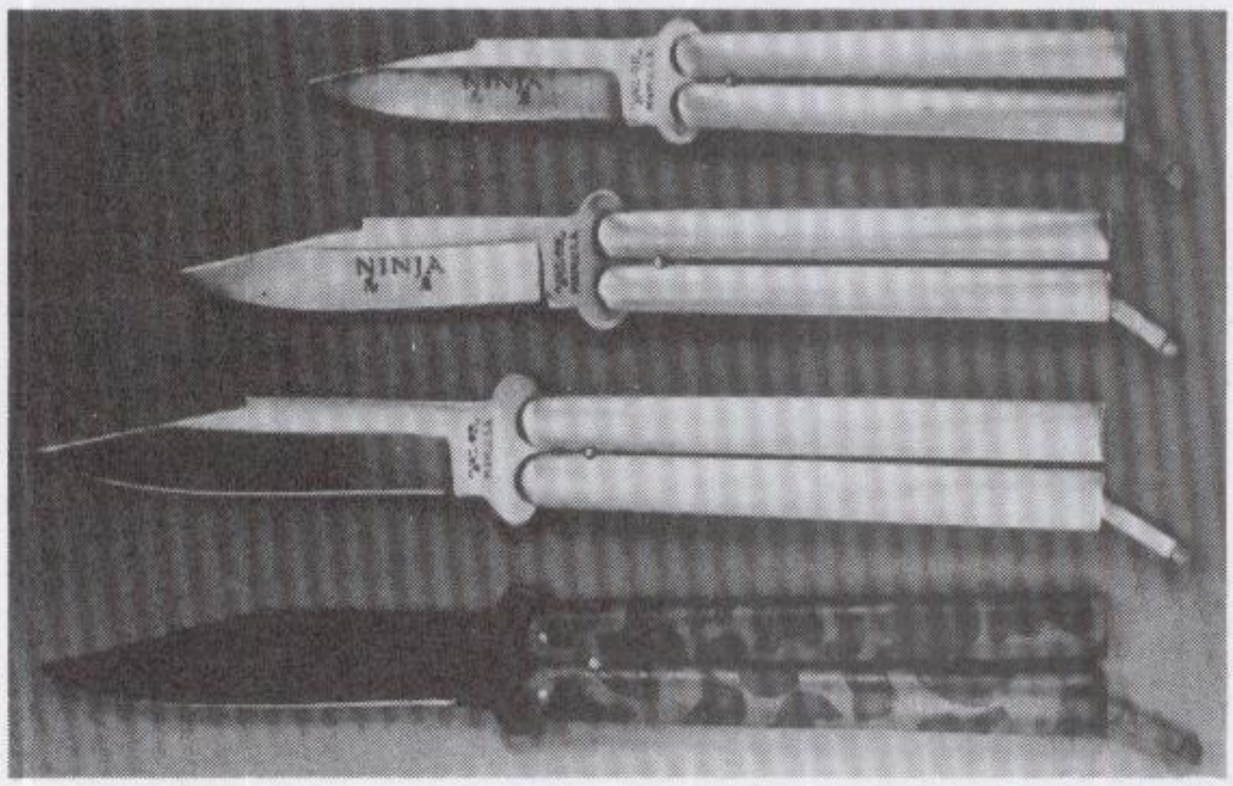
There are 440 stainless steel blades in this series, all with solid stainless steel covers. The covers are attached at the hinge pins, latch and rear pins. The pins are ground off and polished even with the handle surface.

Model 530

Model 531

Model 532

Model 533



The early 1982 models had "Ninja" printed on the blades as a marketing hook. Later (1986) that term carried with it a negative connotation, so the name was changed to "Samurai Warrior."

Model: 530 Ninja or Samurai Warrior *made in Japan*
Weight: 4 oz.
Size: 3¾" closed, 6-3/8" open
Blade: 2¾" sabre
Price: $21.50

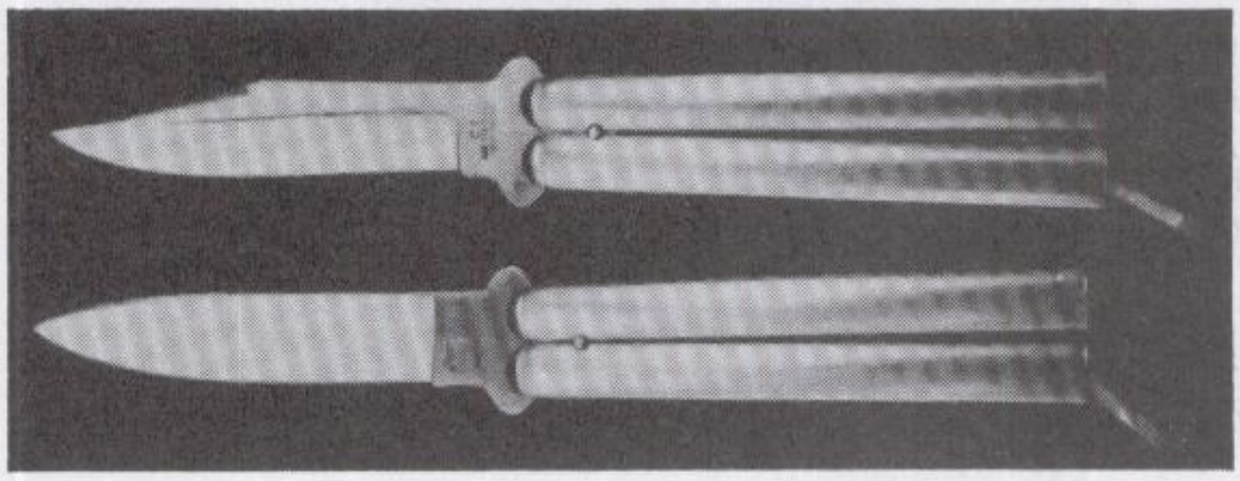
Model: 531
Weight: 5 oz.
Size: 4-3/8" closed, 7-3/8" open
Blade: 3" sabre
Price: $23.50

Model: 532
Weight: 6½ oz.
Size: 5" closed, 8½" open
Blade: 3½" sabre
Price: $25.50

Model: 533
Blade: 3½" teflon coated sabre
Handles: Painted camouflage
Price: $25.50

Model 1201

Model 100



Importer: Compass Industries *made in Japan*
Model: 1201
Price: $25.50

Importer: Frost Cutlery
Model: 100
Blade: 3½" surgical steel spear point
Price: $25.50

THE DRILLED STAINLESS HANDLE SERIES

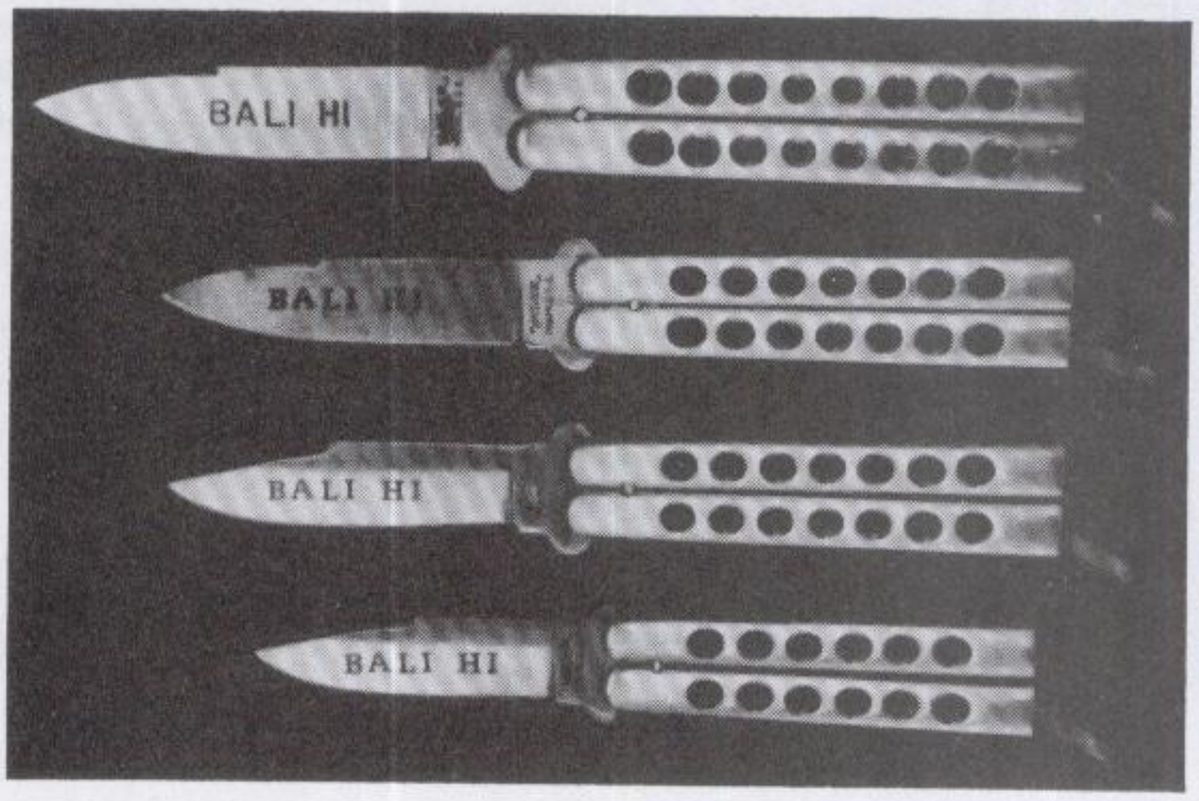
The drilled holes design was inspired by the Pacific Cutlery's custom "skeletonized" handles, introduced in 1979. Construction is similar to the solid handles, above, with the additional step of drilling and countersinking holes.

Model 562

Model 561

Model 561

Model 560

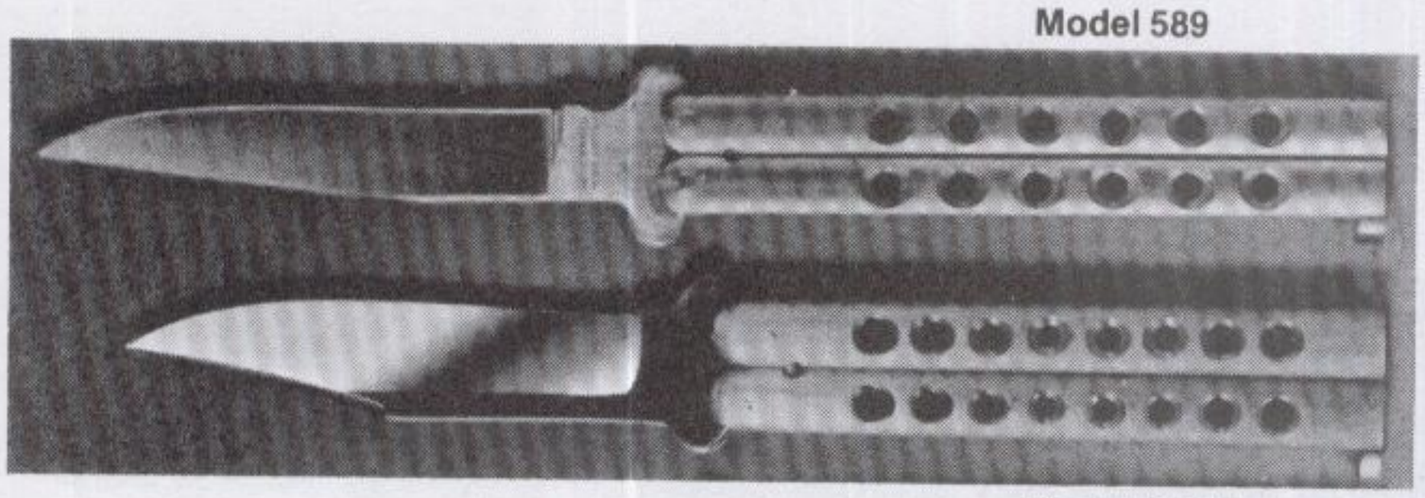


Importer: Valor Corporation
Model: 562 Bali Hi
Weight: 5½ oz.
Size: 5" closed, 8½" open
Blade: 3¾" spear point
Price: $25.50

Model: 561
Weight: 4 oz.
Size: 4-3/8" closed, 7-3/8" open
Blade: 3¼" spear point
3¼" sabre
Price: $23.50

Model: 560
Weight: 3 oz.
Size: 3¾" closed, 6-3/8" open
Blade: 2¾" sabre
Price: $21.50

Model 589



Model 105/B

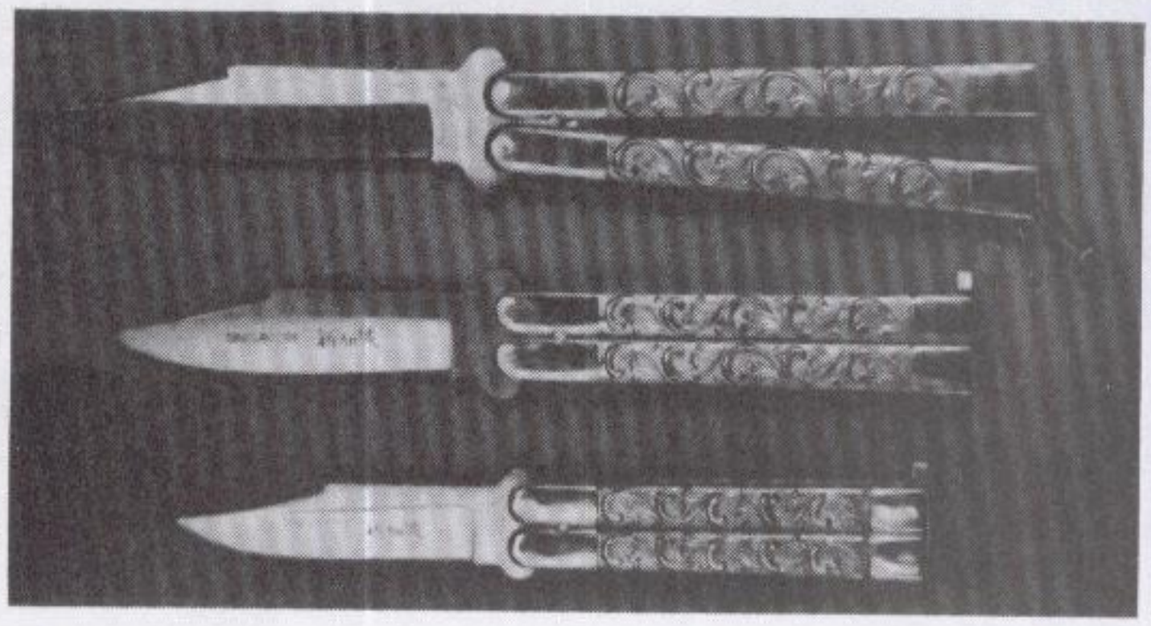
Importer: Valor Corporation
Model: 589 Golden Serpent
Weight: 5 oz.
Size: 5¼" closed, 9¼" open
Blade: 4" 440 stainless needle point
Handles: Solid brass drilled on 3 sides
Price: $30.00

Importer: Frost Cutlery
Model: 105/B
Weight: 6 oz.
Size: 5¼" closed, 8½" open
Blade: 3¾" sabre
Handle: Drilled brass handles and linings
Price: $30.00

Model 552

Model 551

Model 550



Importer: Valor Corporation
Model: 552 Singapore
Weight: 7 oz.
Size: 5" closed, 8½" open
Blade: 3¾" 440 stainless sabre
Handles: Cast engraved brass handles attached to brass linings
Price: $30.00

Model: 551 Singapore
Weight: 5 oz.
Size: 4-3/8" closed, 7-3/8" open
Blade: 3¼" 440 stainless sabre
Price: $25.00

Model: 550 Singapore
Weight: 4 oz.
Size: 3¾" closed, 6¼" open
Blade: 2¾" 440 stainless sabre
Price: $22.00

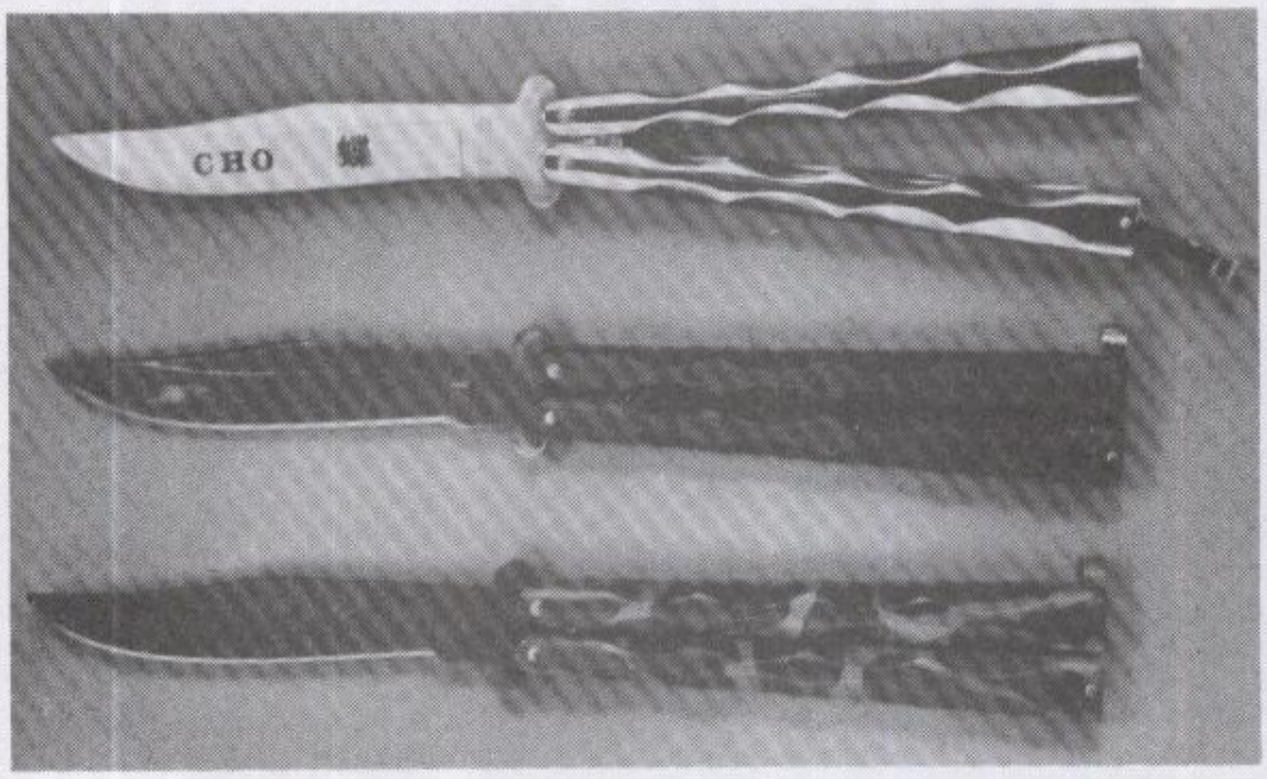
VALOR *continued*

Cast sculptured handles

Model 534

Model 535

Model 536



Model: 534 Cho
Weight: 7 oz.
Size: 5¼" closed, 9" open
Blade: 4" 440 stainless sabre
Handles: Chrome plated solid diecast sculptured handles
Price: $30.00

Model: 535 Cho
Blade: 4" teflon coated sabre
Handles: Solid diecast sculptured handles with non-slip black finish
Price: $30.00

Model: 536 Cho
Handles: Painted camouflage
Price: $30.00

Solid diecast handles with holes

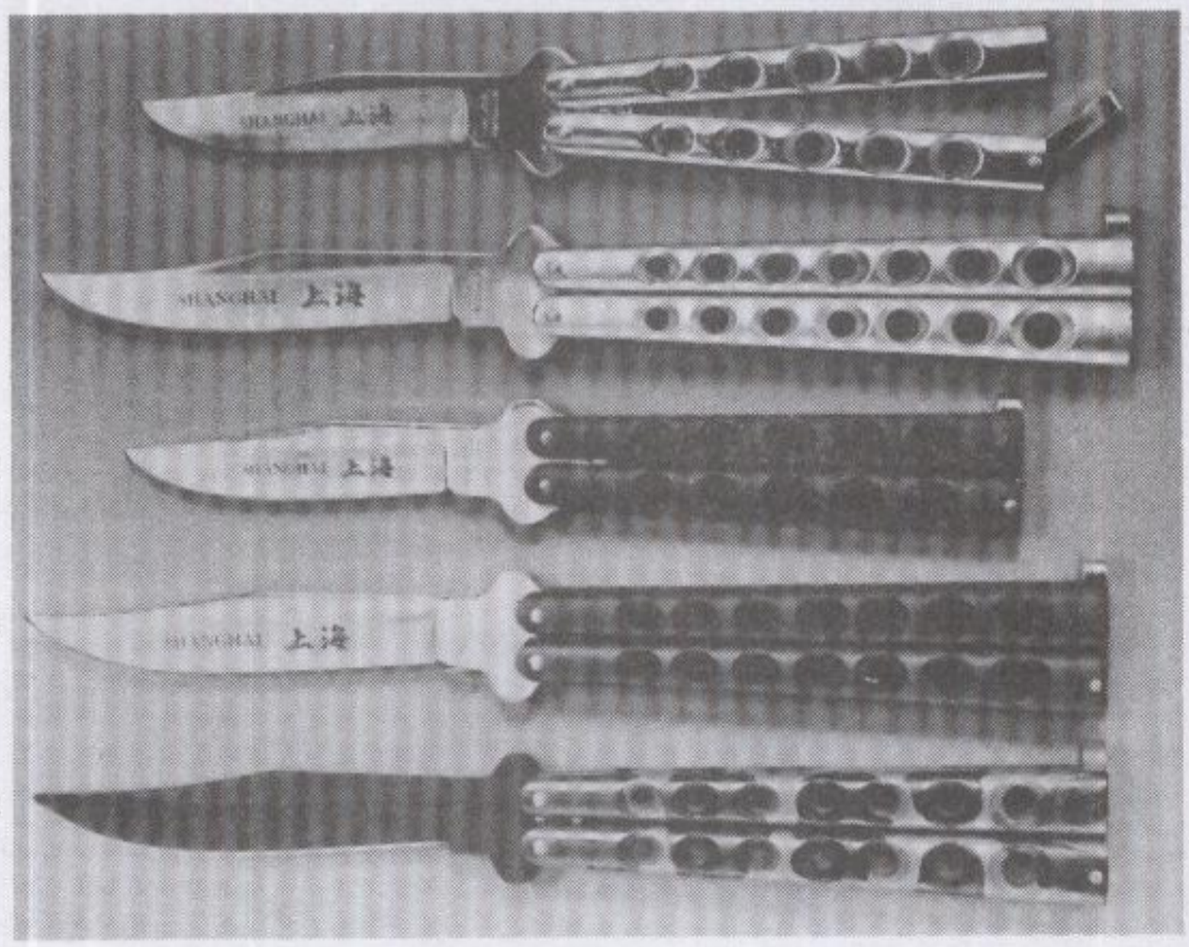
Model 570

Model 571

Model 572

Model 573

Model 574



Model: 570 Shanghai
Weight: 4 oz.
Size: 4½" closed, 7½" open
Blade: 3¼" 440 stainless sabre
Price: $23.50

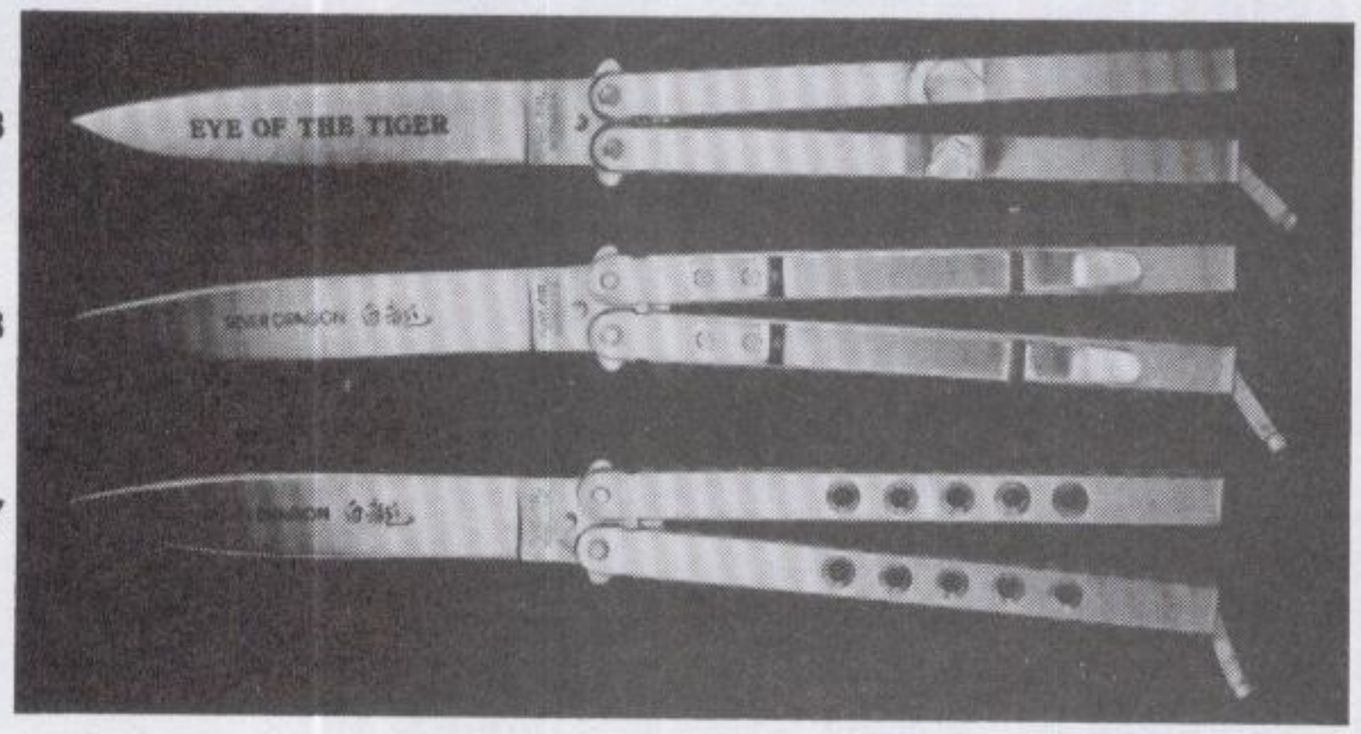
Model: 571 Shanghai
Weight: 6½ oz.
Size: 5¼" closed, 9" open
Blade: 4" 440 stainless sabre
Price: $30.00

Model: 572 Shanghai
Handles: Solid diecast handles with holes and non-slip black finish
Price: $23.50

Model: 573 Shanghai
Handles: Solid diecast handles with holes and non-slip black finish
Price: $30.00

Model: 574 Shanghai
Blade: 4" 440 stainless sabre teflon coated sabre
Handles: Solid diecast handles with holes and painted camouflage
Price: $30.00

VALOR *continued*



Model 563

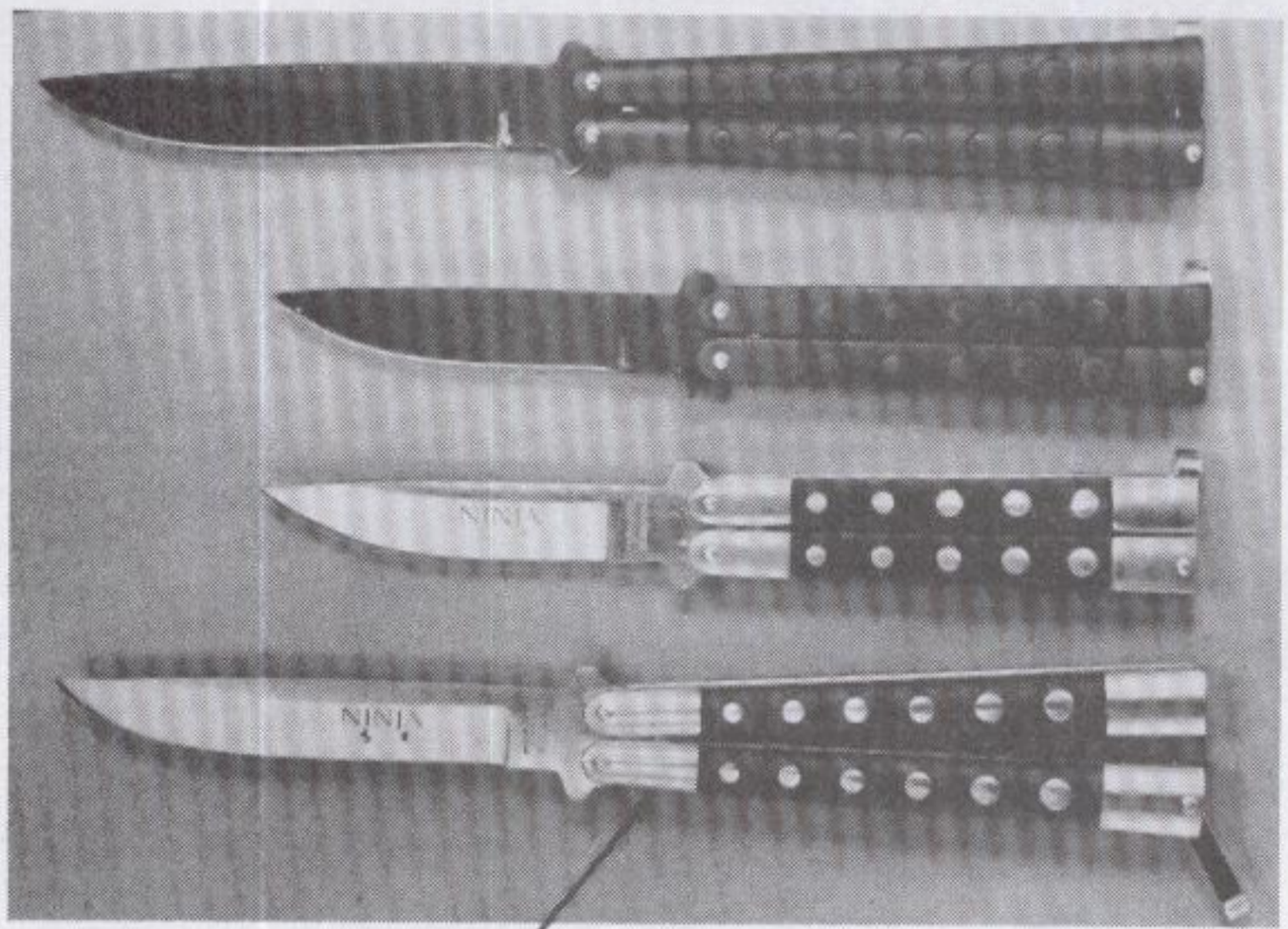
Model 558

Model 557

Model: 563 Eye of the Tiger
Weight: 5½ oz.
Size: 5-1/8″ closed, 9″ open
Blade: 4″ 440 stainless spear point
Handles: Open edged stainless with abalone shell inserts
Price: $29.00

Model: 558 Silver Dragon
Weight: 5 oz.
Size: 5¼″ closed, 9″ open
Blade: 4″ 440 stainless spear point
Handles: Open edged stainless with boot clip
Price: $29.00

Model: 557 Silver Dragon
Weight: 4½ oz.
Handles: Open edged drilled stainless
Price: $25.50



Model 528

Model 526

Model 525

Model 527

This is Valor Corporation's best selling model.

Model: 528 Ninja or Samurai Warrior
Weight: 7½ oz.
Size: 5¼″ closed, 9¼″ open
Blade: 4″ 440 stainless teflon coated utility
Handles: Black diecast handles with black resin inserts
Price: $30.00

Model: 526
Weight: 5 oz.
Size: 4¼″ closed, 7½″ open
Blade: 3¼″ 440 stainless teflon coated utility
Price: $25.00

Model: 525
Blade: 3¼″ 440 stainless utility
Handles: Solid diecast handles chromed with black resin inserts
Price: $25.00

Model: 527
This is Valor's biggest seller
Blade: 4″ 440 stainless utility
Price: $30.00

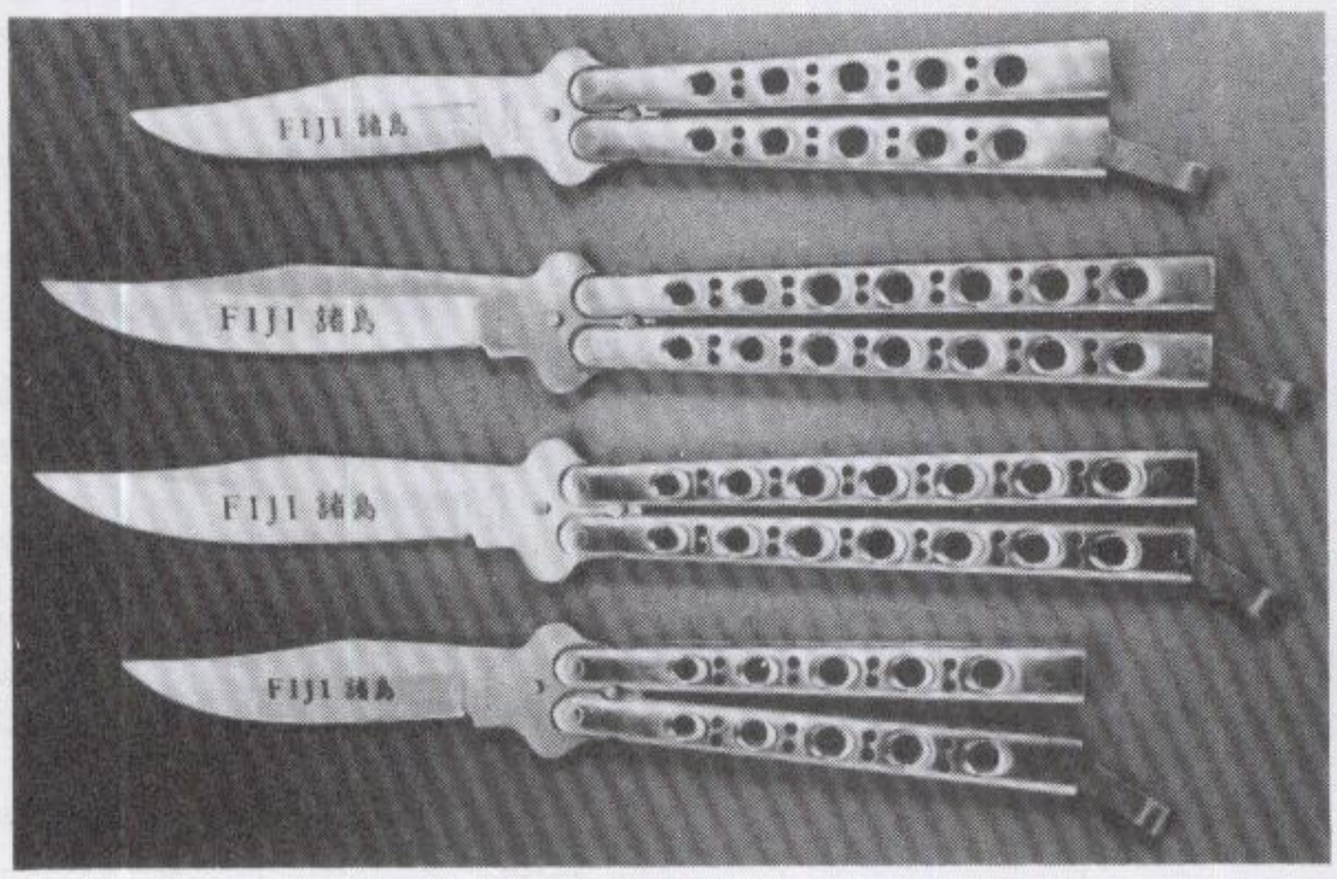
VALOR *continued*

Model 579

Model 580

Model 569

Model 568



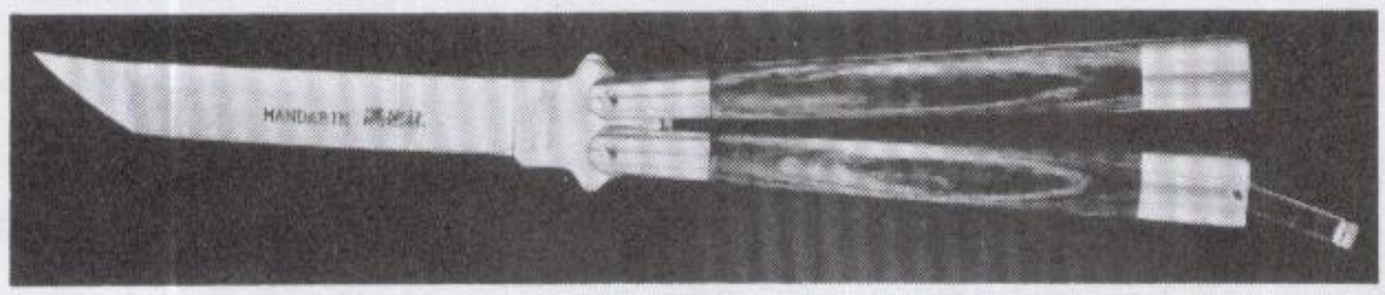
Model: 579 Fiji
Weight: 3½ oz.
Size: 4½" closed, 7½" open
Blade: 3¼" 440 stainless sabre
Handles: Open edged drilled stainless
Price: $23.50

Model: 580 Fiji
Weight: 4½ oz.
Size: 5¼" closed, 9-1/8" open
Blade: 4" 440 stainless sabre
Handles: Open edged drilled stainless
Price: $29.00

Model: 569 Fiji
Handles: Open edged drilled brass
Price: $29.00

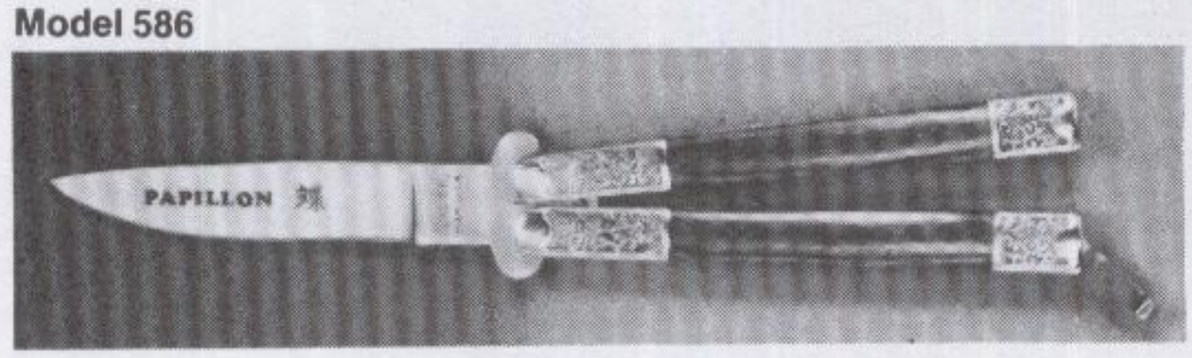
Model: 568 Fiji
Handles: Open edged drilled brass
Price: $23.50

Model 633



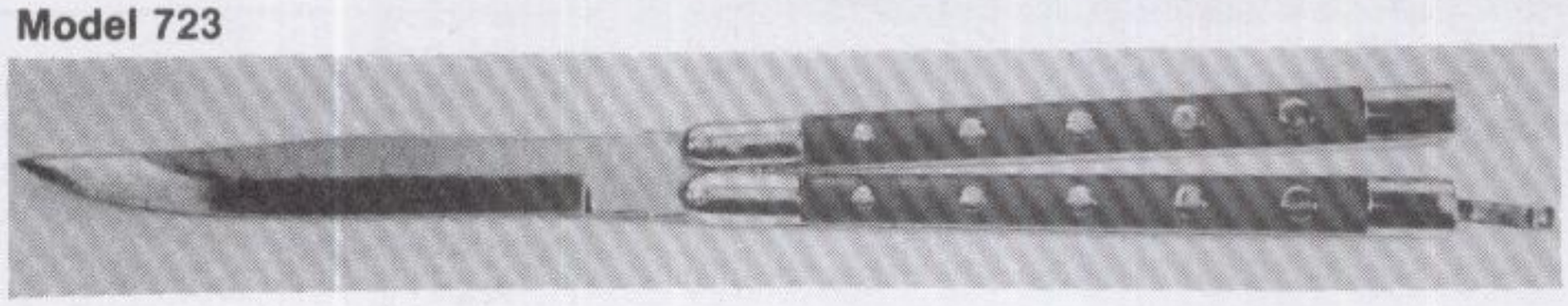
Model: 633 Mandarin
Weight: 7 oz.
Size: 5¼" closed, 9¼" open
Blade: 440 stainless tanto
Handles: Solid diecast bolsters chrome plated with mahogany inlays
Price: $30.00

Model 586



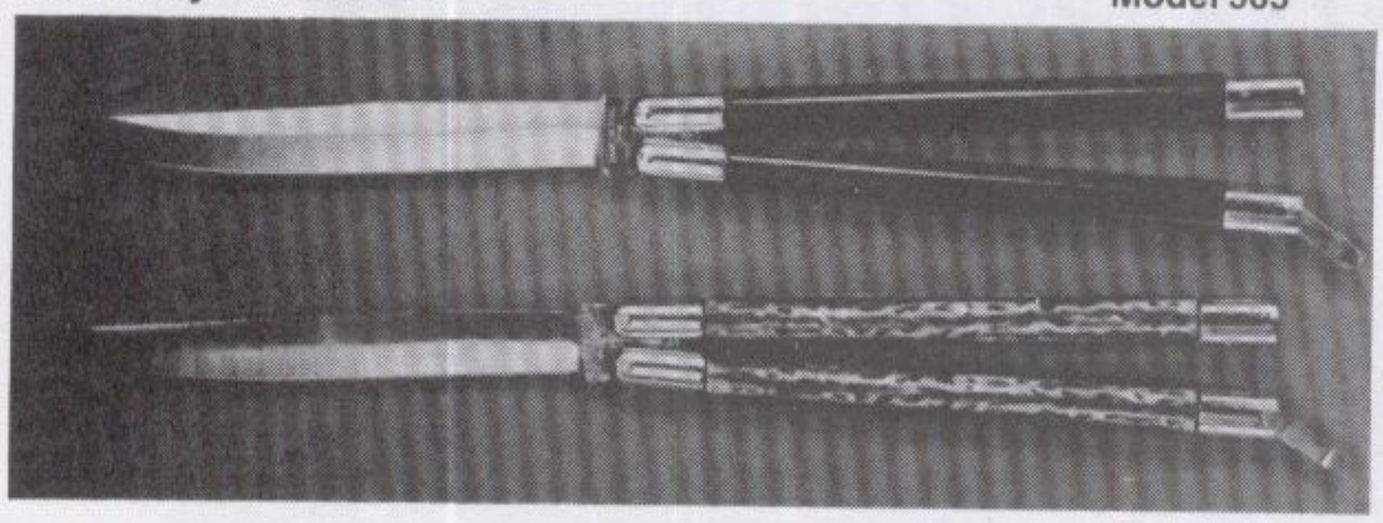
Model: 586 Papillon
Weight: 6 oz.
Size: 4-5/8" closed, 8" open
Blade: 3½" 440 stainless utility
Handles: Solid diecast stainless steel bolsters with lost wax engravings and mahogany inlays
Price: $30.00

Model 723



Model: 723 Kamikaze *made in Korea*
Weight: 4 oz.
Size: 5-3/8" closed, 9-5/8" open
Blade: 4" 420 stainless needle point
Handles: Chromed diecast with black resin inserts
Price: $13.00

Economy butterflies

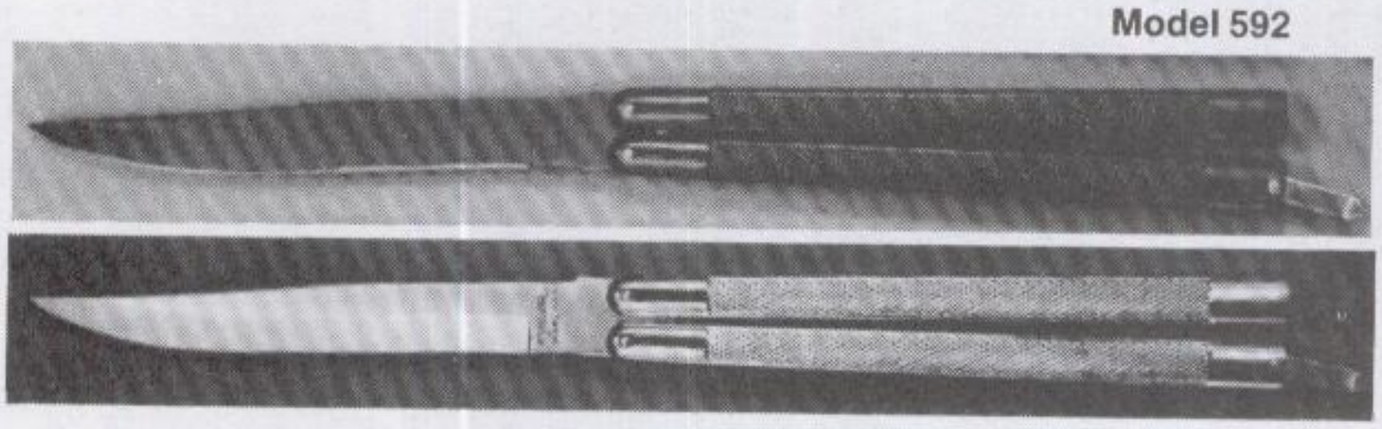


Model 565

Model 566

Model: 565
Weight: 3 oz.
Size: 5¼" closed, 9½" open
Blade: 4½" 440 stainless needle point
Handles: Diecast chrome plated bolsters with black plastic inserts
Price: $13.50

Model: 566
Handles: Plastic simulated stag inserts
Price: $15.00

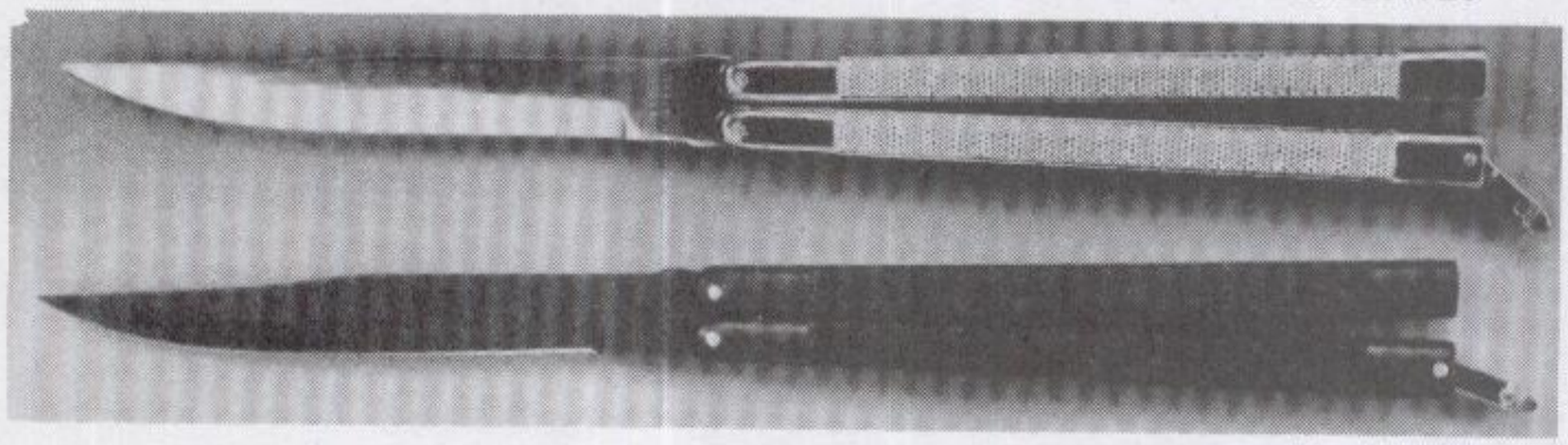


Model 592

Model 590

Model: 592 Kamikaze
made in Japan
Weight: 5 oz.
Size: 5-3/8" closed, 9-5/8" open
Blade: 4" 440 stainless teflon coated needle point
Handles: Diecast metal plated black
Price: $15.00

Model: 590 Kamikaze
Blade: 4" 440 stainless needle point
Handles: Chrome plated diecast metal
Price: $15.00

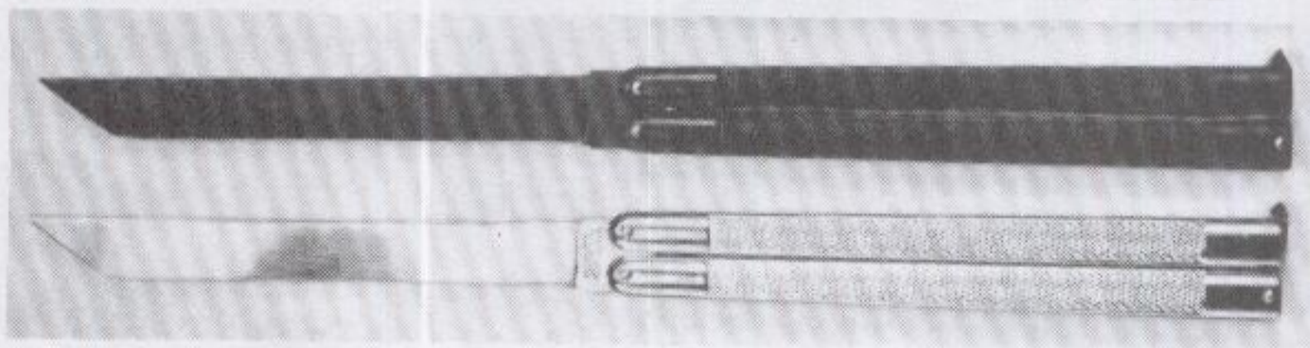


Model 720

Model 722

Model: 720 Kamikaze
made in Korea
Weight: 5 oz.
Size: 5¼" closed, 9½" open
Blade: 4" 420 stainless needle point
Handles: Chrome plated diecast metal
Price: $10.00

Model: 722 Kamikaze
Blade: 4" 420 stainless needle point teflon coated
Handles: Black plated diecast metal
Price: $12.00



Model 662

Model 660

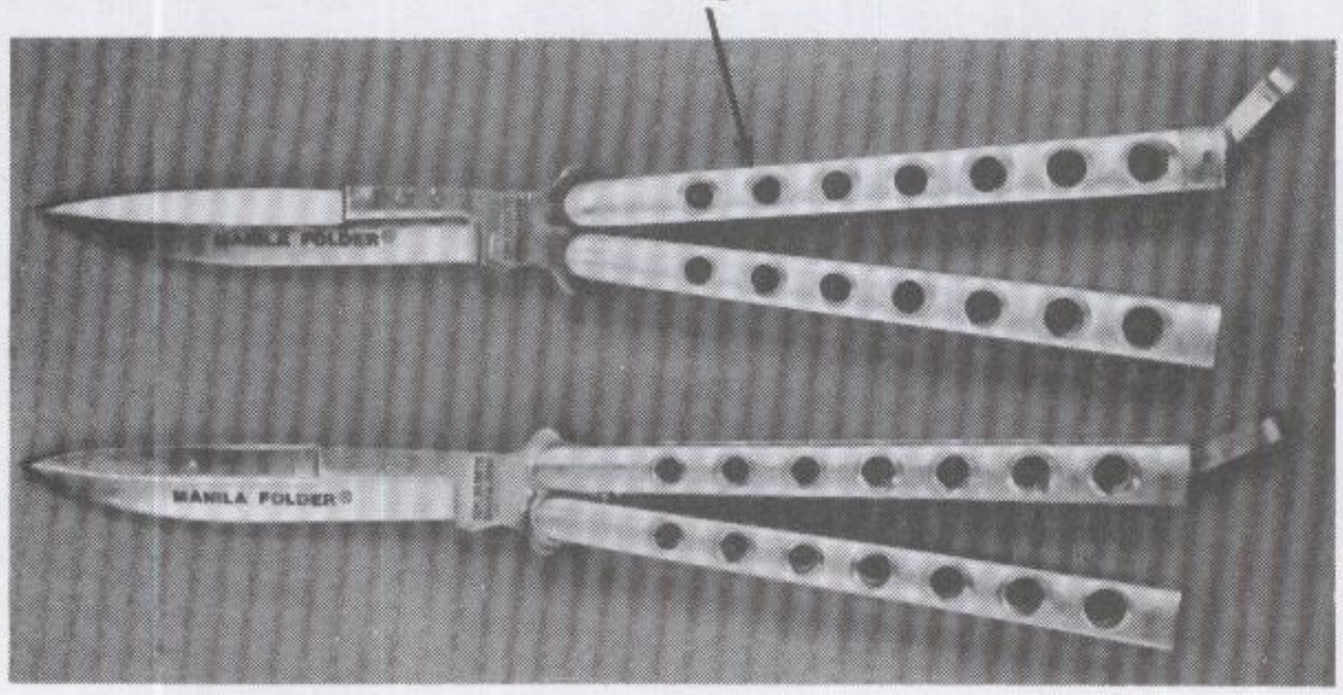
Model: 662 Harakiri
made in Japan
Weight: 4½ oz.
Size: 5¼" closed, 9-5/8" open
Blade: 4½" surgical teflon coated tanto
Handles: Black plated diecast metal
Price: $15.00

Model: 660 Harakiri
Blade: 4½" surgical steel tanto
Handles: Chrome plated diecast metal
Price: $13.50

TAYLOR/SETO BUTTERFLY KNIVES

The flagship of the Taylor Cutlery line is the solid-handled Manila Folder® series made in Japan by Taylor/Seto. These are characterized by a four-inch surgical stainless steel stiletto blade and a Manila style latch. The standard size is five and one-quarter inches closed and nine inches fully opened.

This is Taylor Cutlery's best selling model.

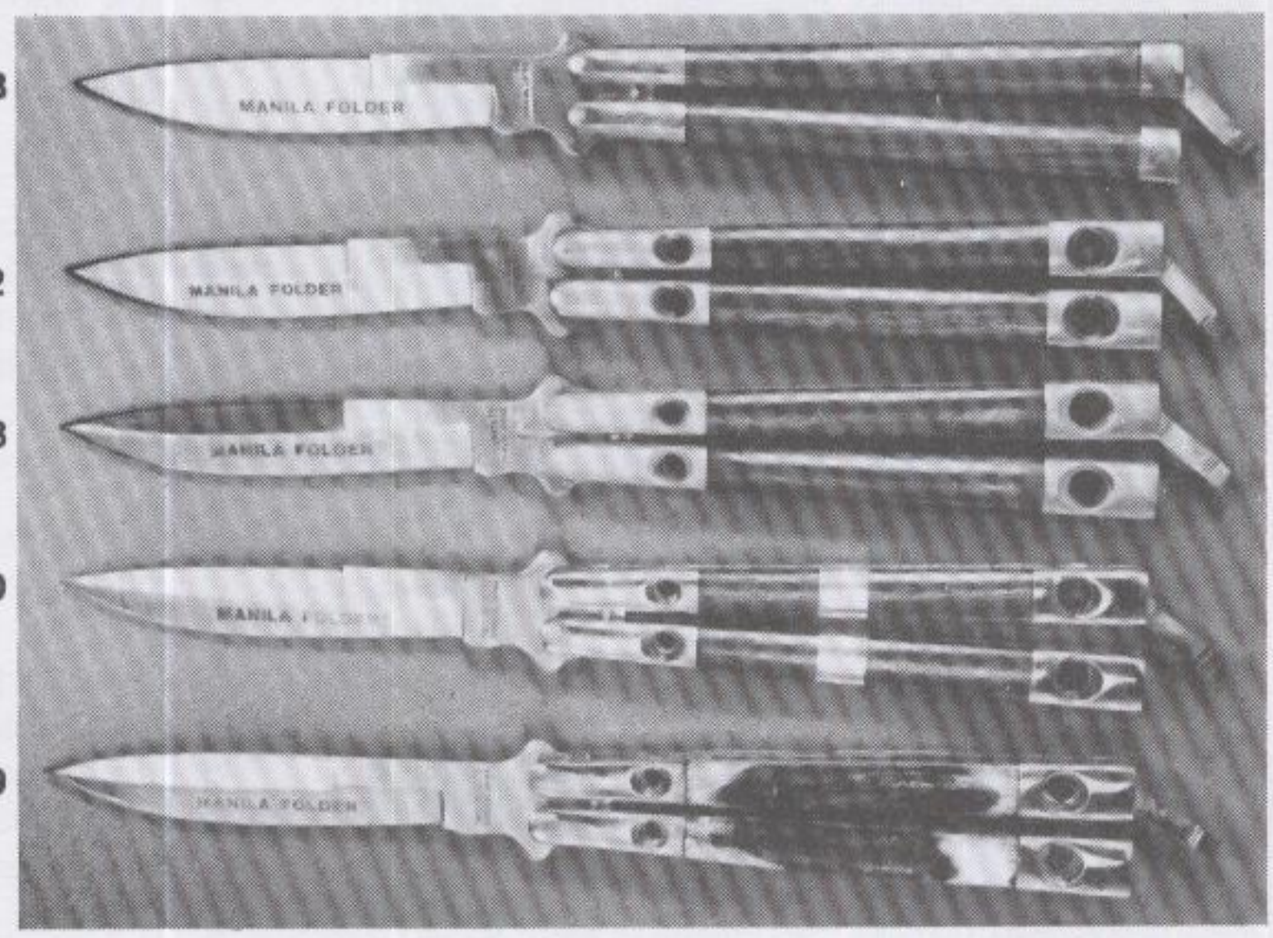


Model 971

Model: 971 — The best seller
Weight: 8½ oz.
Handles: Solid milled brass
Price: $40.00

Model 974

Model: 974
Weight: 4 oz.
Handles: Solid milled aluminum
Price: $40.00



Model G-972-B

Model: G-972-B
Weight: 6 oz.
Handles: Solid brass with rosewood inserts
Price: $40.00

Model G-972

Model: G-972
Weight: 7 oz.
Handles: Solid milled brass with rosewood inserts
Price: $40.00

Model G-973

Model: G-973
Weight: 4 oz.
Handles: Solid milled aluminum with rosewood inserts
Price: $40.00

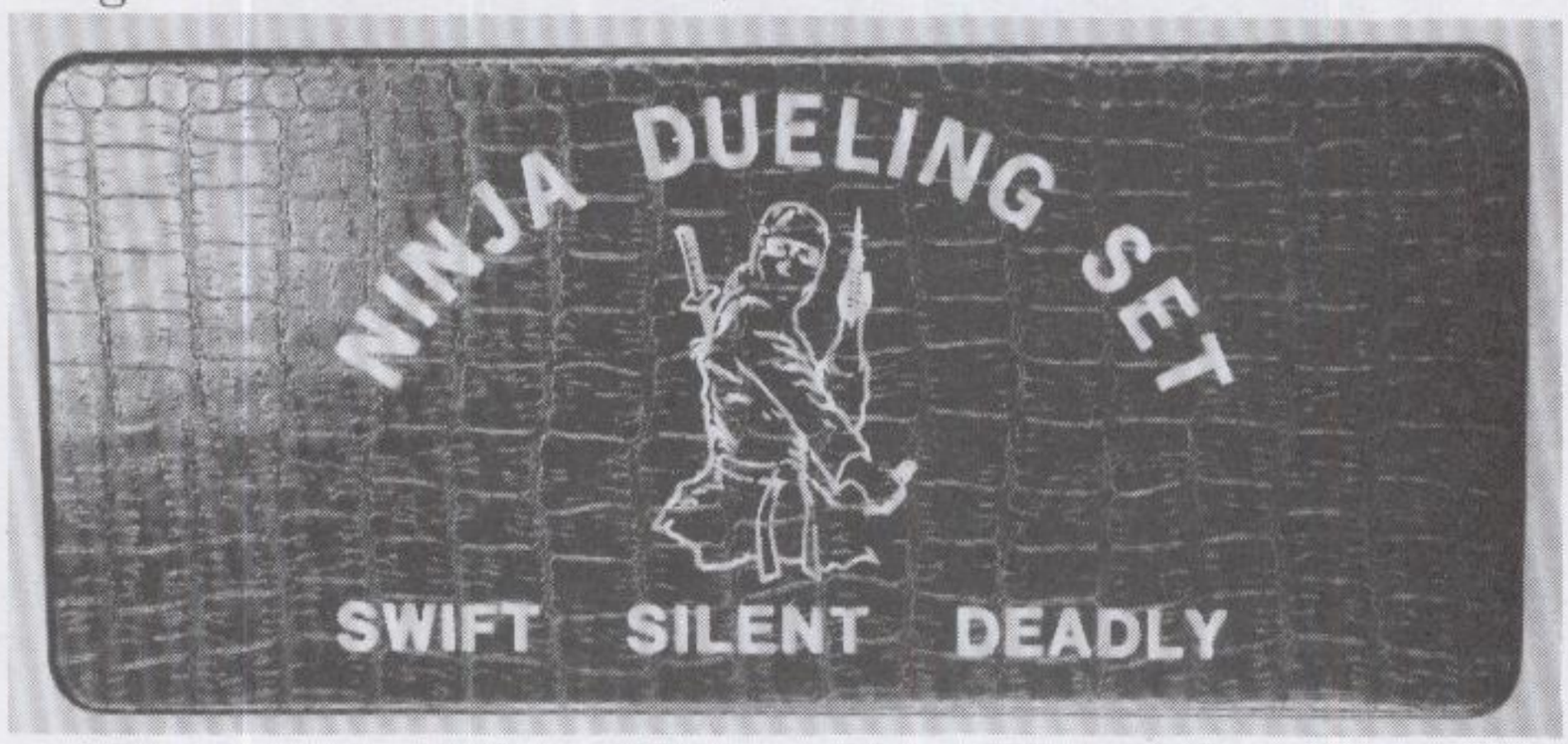
Model 1060

Model: 1060
Weight: 7 oz.
Handles: Solid milled brass with rosewood and brass strip across the middle
Price: $40.00

Model G-1059

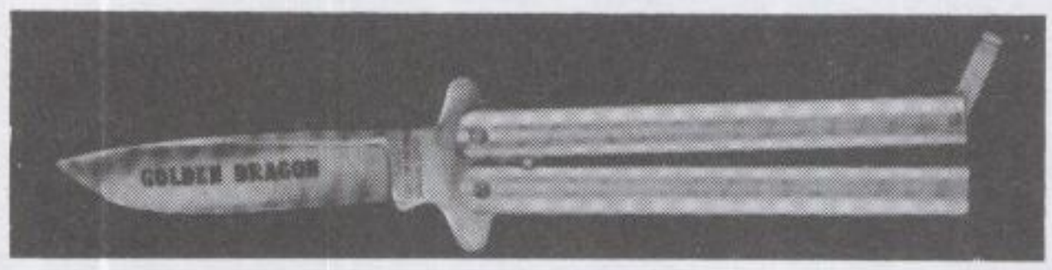
Model: G-1059
Weight: 7½ oz.
Handles: Solid milled brass with stag inserts
Price: $45.32

Taylor Cutlery offered a limited edition presentation set for $95.97, containing two Manila Folders. Set No. 1 contained two brass folders; set No. 2 included one brass and one aluminum folder; and set No. 3 had two aluminum folders. A lower-priced presentation set was recently released containing two Dragon Claw butterflies for $53.32.



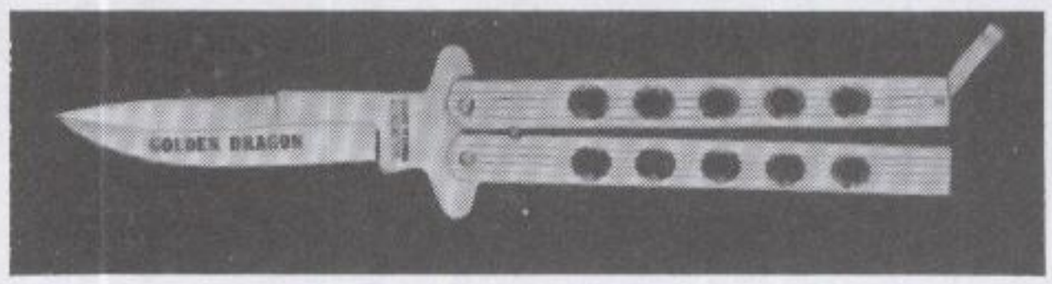
Another popular model in the Taylor line is the solid brass-handled Golden Dragon Series. The Golden Dragon began as a small three-inch surgical steel stiletto that gradually grew into one of the largest production butterflies on the market today—a fifteen-inch model!

Model 993/S



Model: 993/S
Weight: 5 oz.
Size: 4¼" closed, 7" open
Blade: 3" utility
Handles: Solid brass
Price: $18.66

Model G-1066/4

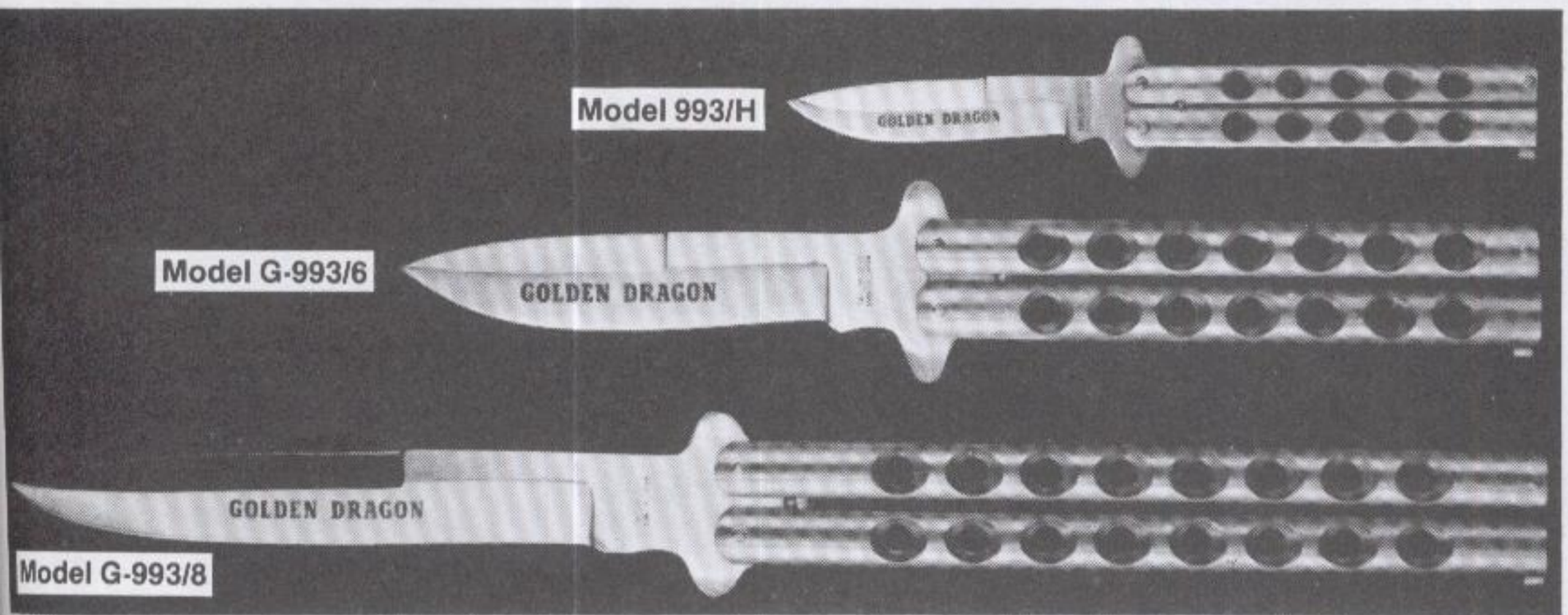


Model: G-1066/4
Weight: 4 oz.
Size: 4¼" closed, 7" open
Blade: 3" stiletto
Handles: Drilled and grooved solid brass
Price: $16.79

Model 993/H

Model G-993/6

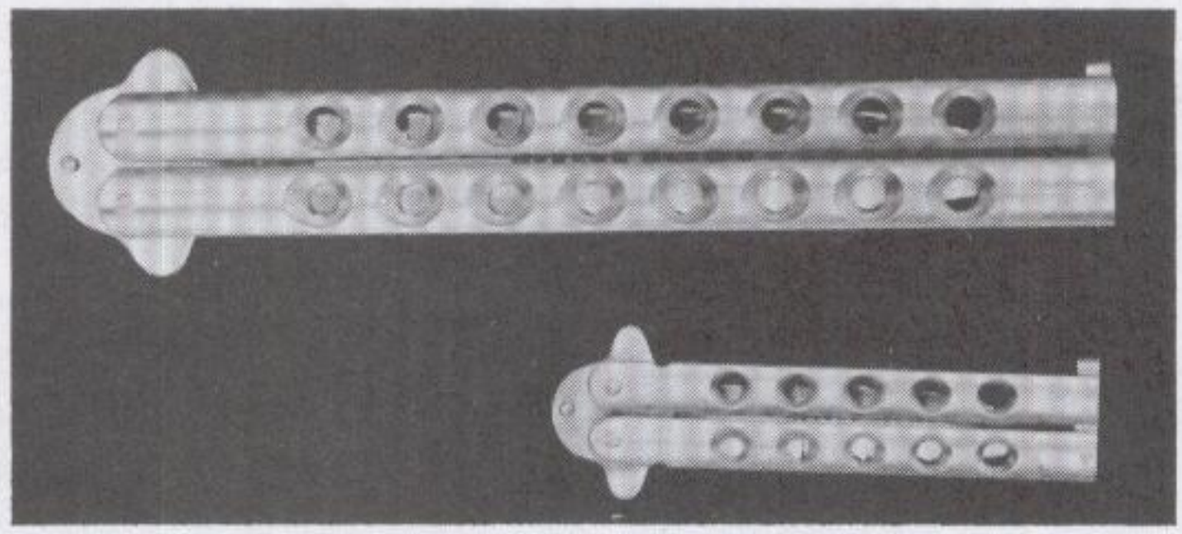
Model G-993/8



Model: 993/H
Weight: 4 oz.
Size: 4¼" closed, 7" open
Blade: 3" stiletto
Handles: Drilled solid brass
Price: $18.00

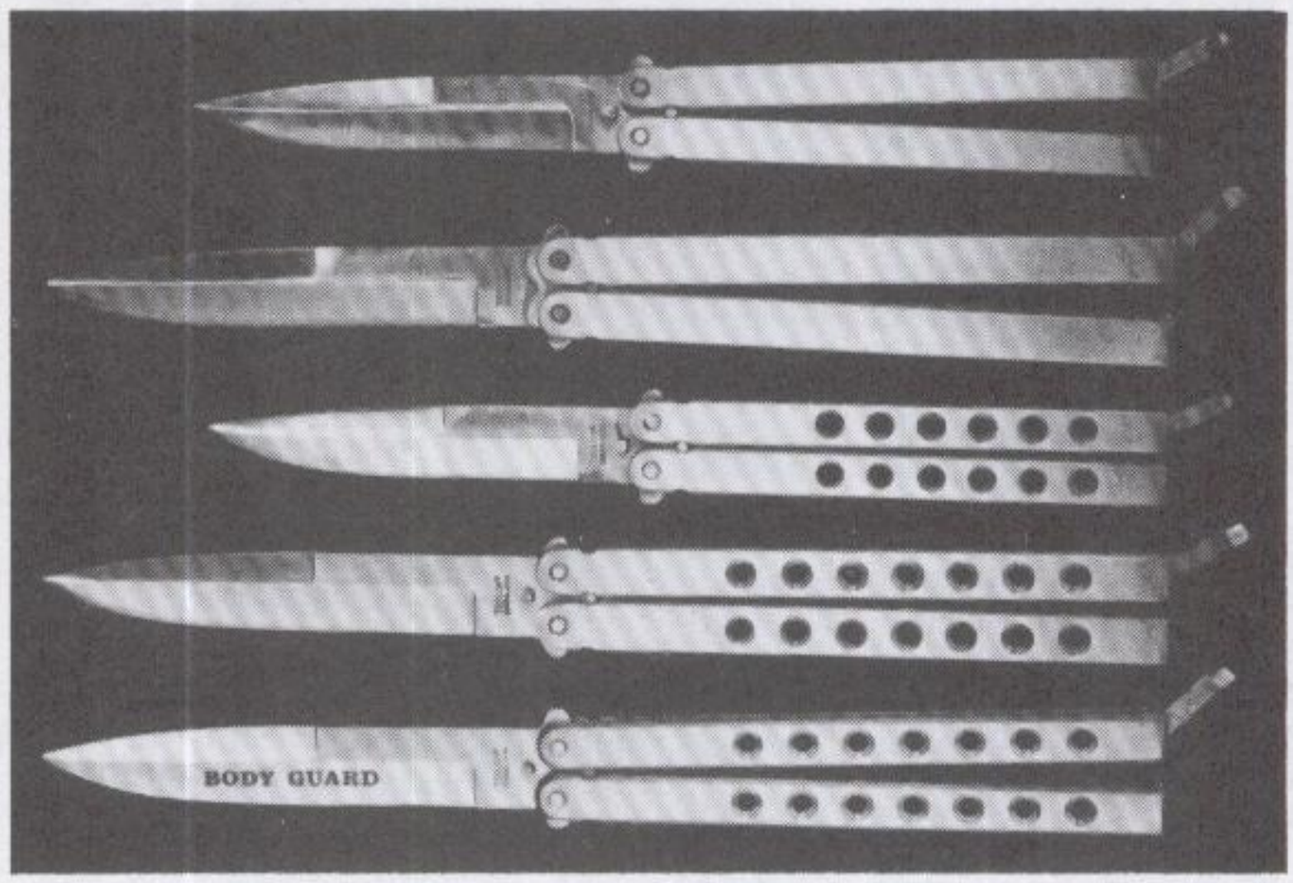
Model: G-993/6
Weight: 11 oz.
Size: 6½" closed, 11" open
Blade: 5" stiletto
Handles: Drilled solid brass
Price: $26.66

Model: G-993/8
Weight: 15 oz.
Size: 8¼" closed, 15" open
Blade: 7" stiletto
Handles: Drilled solid brass
Price: $52.66



The big and the small, 8¼″ vs. 4¼″ closed Golden Dragons.

In the early '80s, when demand far exceeded supply, Taylor Cutlery produced a series of inexpensive, open-edged stainless steel models with surgical steel blades. They have since been discontinued.



Model G-971/S

Model G-968/S

Model G-971

Model G-968

Model G-968/B Body Guard

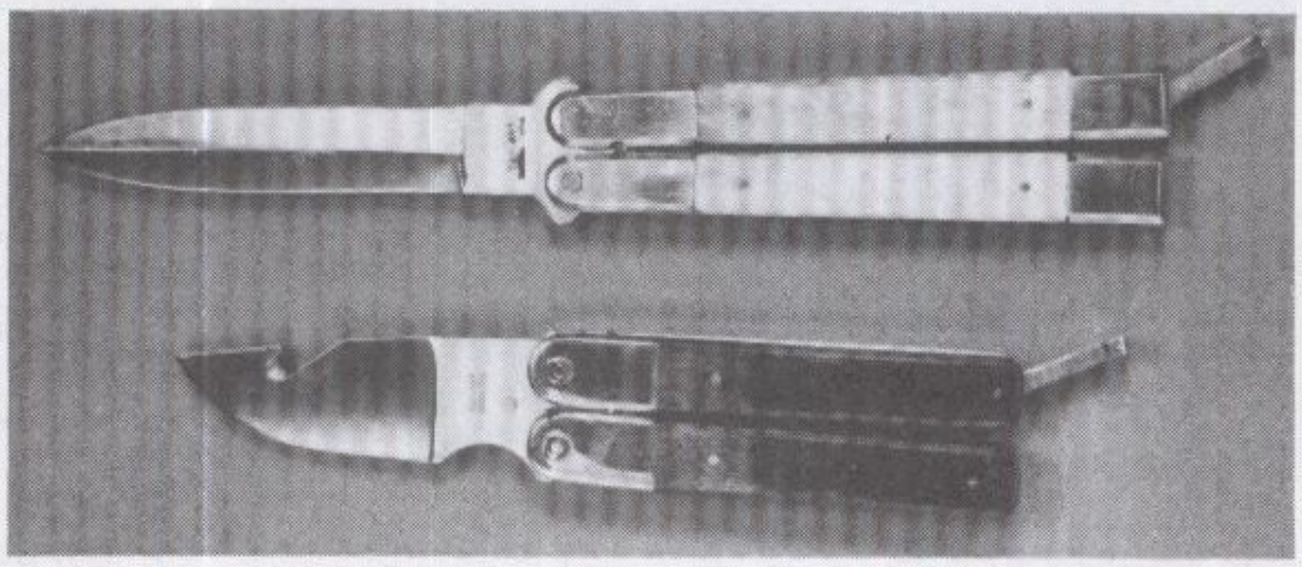
Model: G-971/S
Weight: 4 oz.
Size: 4½″ closed, 7½″ open
Blade: 3½″ stiletto
Price: $15.72

Model: G-968/S
Weight: 5½ oz.
Size: 5¼″ closed, 9″ open
Blade: 4″ stiletto
Price: $18.38

Model: G-971
Weight: 4 oz.
Size: 4½″ closed, 7½″ open
Blade: 3½″ stiletto
Price: $19.99

Model: G-968
Weight: 5 oz.
Size: 5¼″ closed, 9″ open
Blade: 4″ stiletto
Price: $22.66

Model: G-968/B Body Guard
Weight: 6 oz.
Size: 5¼″ closed, 9″ open
Blade: 4″ stiletto
Handles: 1/8″ thicker drilled stainless
Price: $23.98



Model STR-6

Model G-1064

Model: STR-6
Weight: 6 oz.
Size: 5″ closed, 8½″ open
Blade: 4″ double-edged surgical steel stiletto
Handles: Brass linings, nickel silver bolsters and bone inserts
Price: $23.32

Model: G-1064 Skinner
Weight: 6 oz.
Size: 4″ closed, 6½″ open
Blade: 2″ surgical steel skinner with gut hook
Handles: Brass linings, open edged nickel silver bolsters and green micarta inserts
Price: $28.79

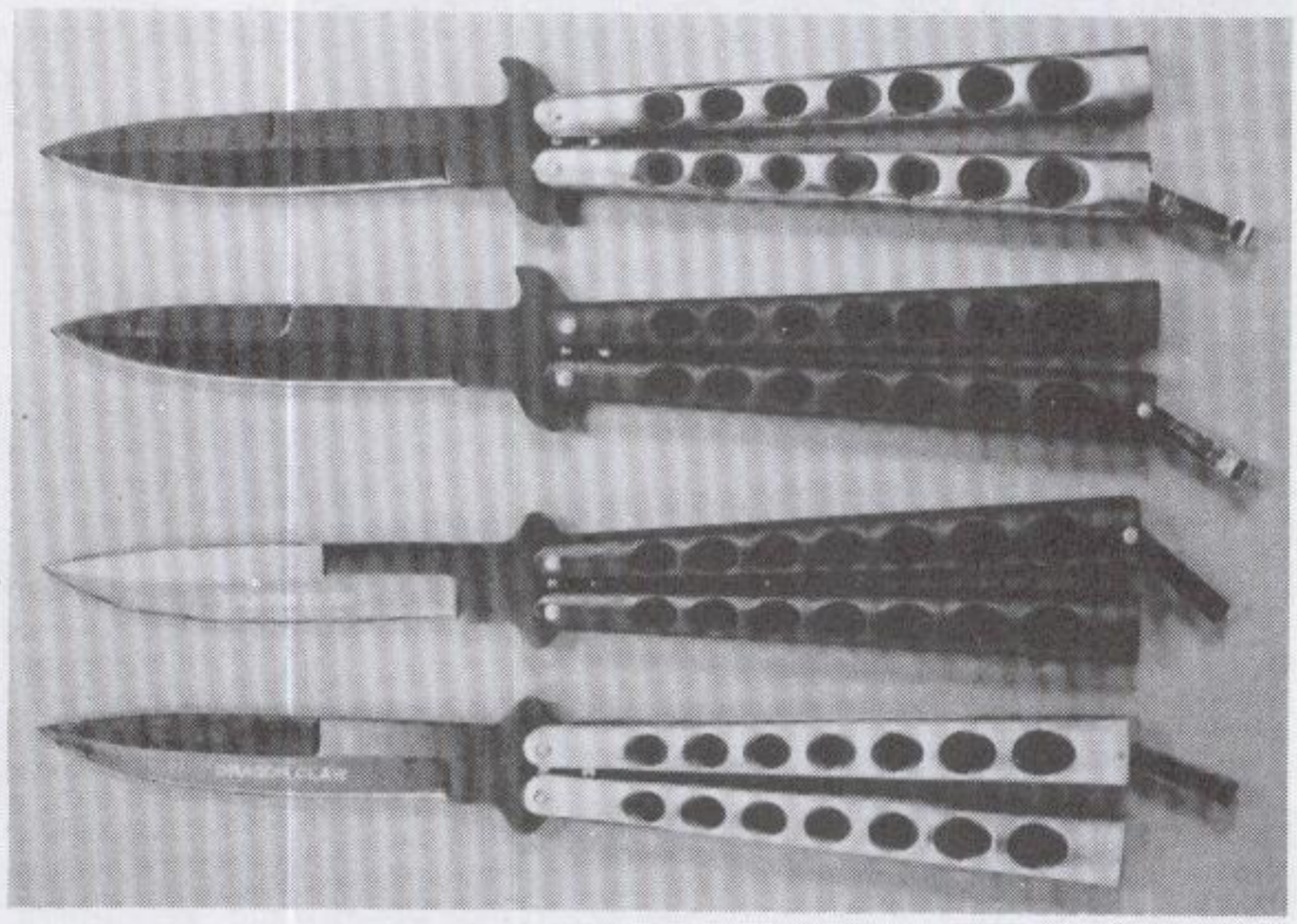
MISC. BUTTERFLIES

Model 1203 Mantis

Model 1202 Black Mantis

Model G-1051/B4 Dragon Claw

Model G-105/BR/4 Dragon Claw



Importer: Compass Industries
made in Japan
Model: 1203 Mantis
Weight: 7 oz.
Size: 5¼" closed, 9" open
Blade: 4" 440 black silicon coated stainless stiletto
Handles: Antique brass plating over diecast metal
Price: $29.95

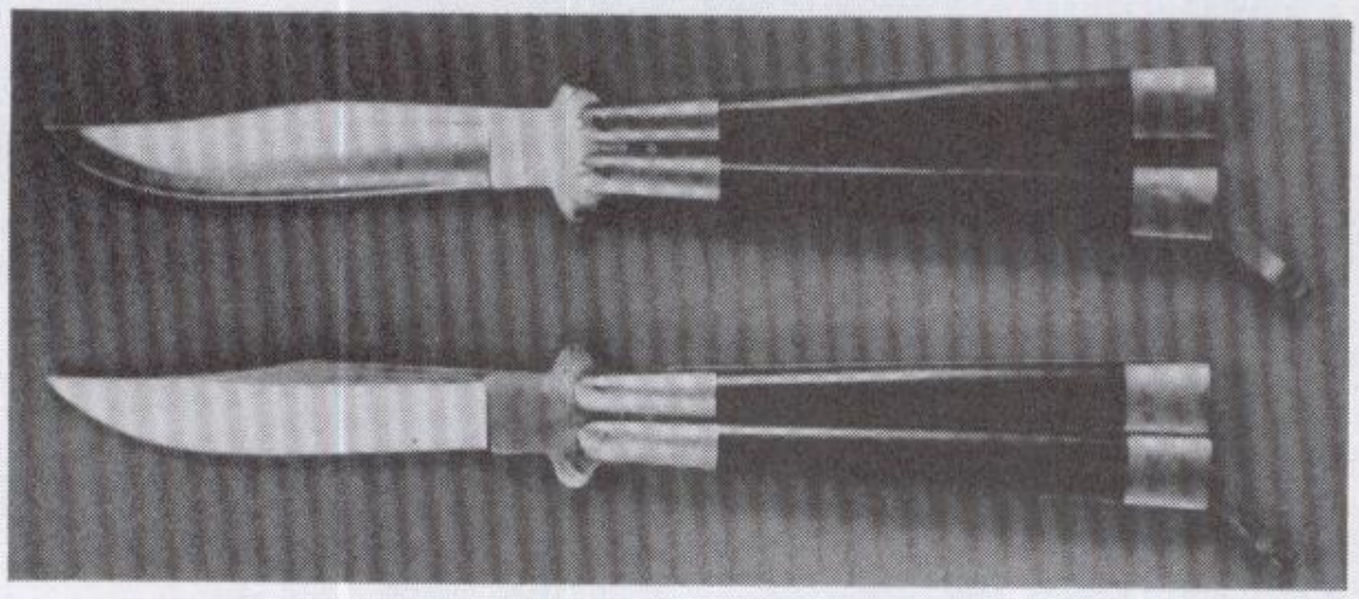
Model: 1202 Black Mantis
Handles: Diecast metal plated black
Price: $29.95

Manufacturer: Taylor/Seto
Model: G-1051/B4 Dragon Claw
Weight: 6 oz.
Size: 5¼" closed, 9" open
Blade: 4" gunblued surgical steel stiletto
Handles: Diecast metal plated black
Price: $16.78

Model: G-105/BR/4 Dragon Claw
Handles: Bronze plating over diecast metal
Price: $16.78

Model 1200B

Model 1200

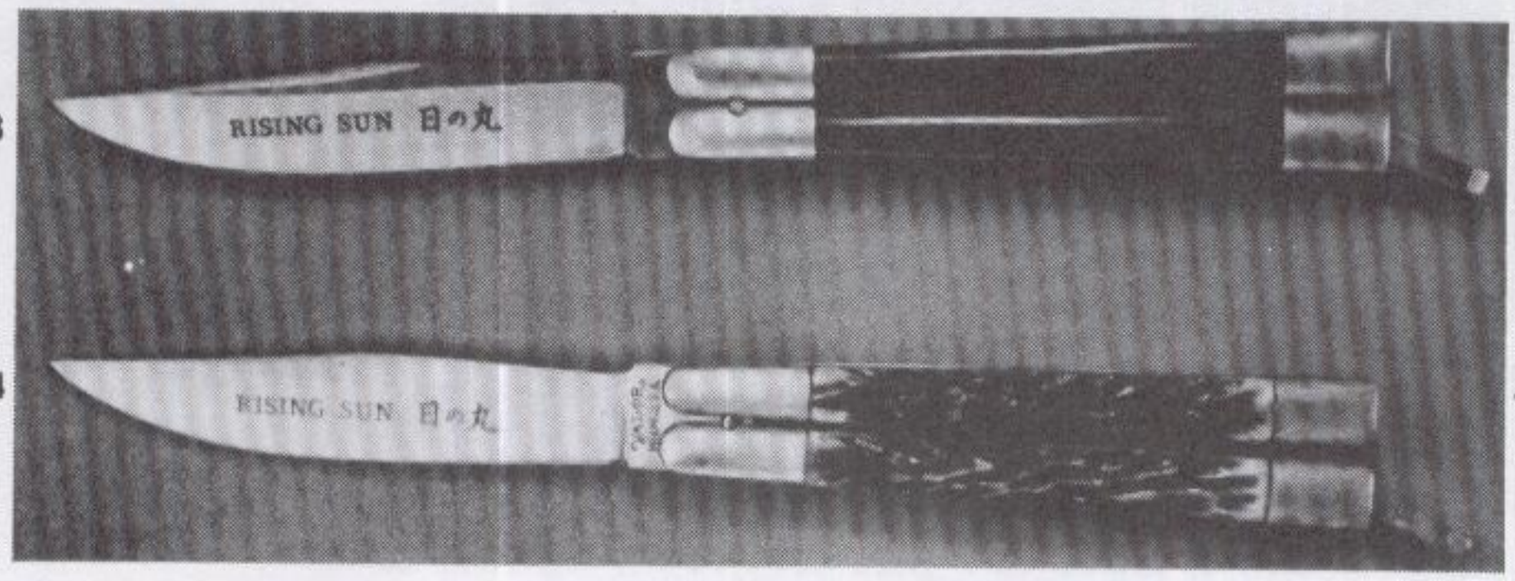


Importer: Compass Industries
Model: 1200B Cho No Shi
Weight: 8 oz.
Size: 5¼" closed, 9" open
Blade: 3½" 440 stainless sabre
Handles: Solid brass diecast with black micarta inlays
Price: $50.00

Model: 1200 Cho No Shi
Handles: Solid brass diecast with brown micarta inlays
Price: $50.00

Model 583

Model 584



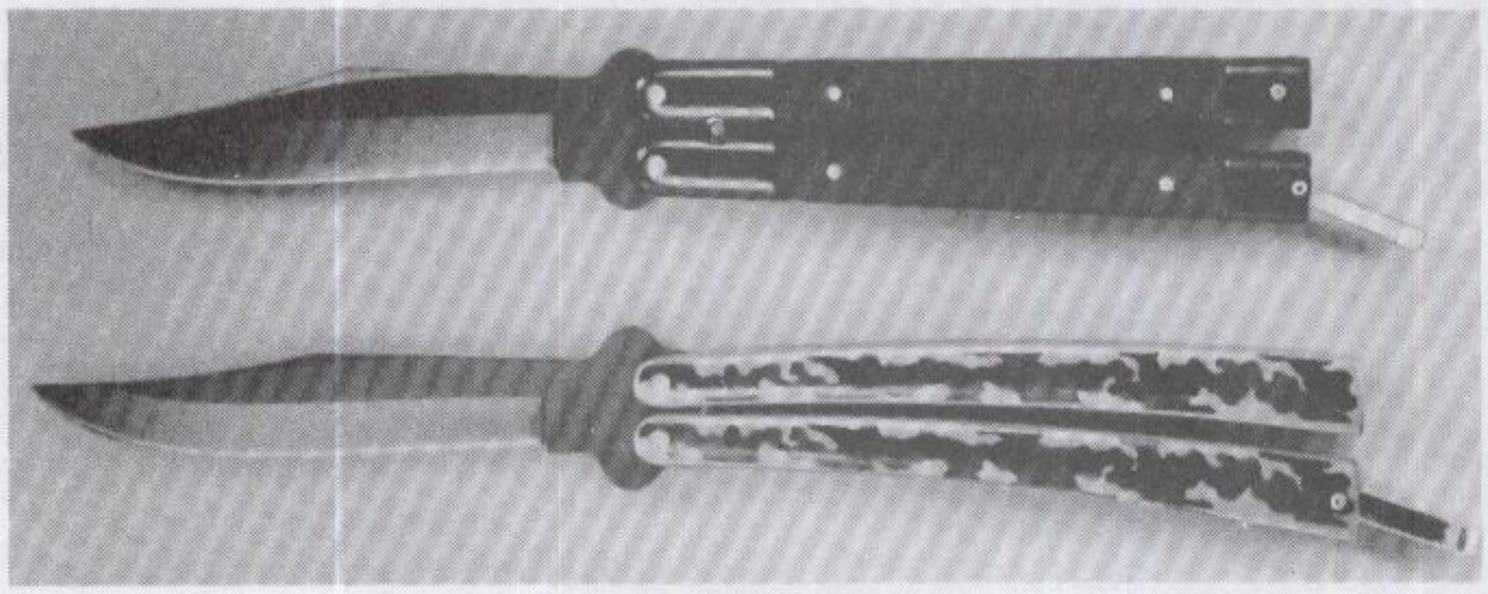
Importer: Valor Corporation
Model: 583 Rising Sun
Weight: 5 oz.
Size: 5" closed, 9" open
Blade: 4" 440 stainless sabre
Handles: Sandwiched brass bolsters with buffalo horn inlay
Price: $30.00

Model: 584 Rising Sun
Handles: Sandwiched brass bolsters with picked bone inlay
Price: $30.00

MISC. *continued*

Model BFB-6

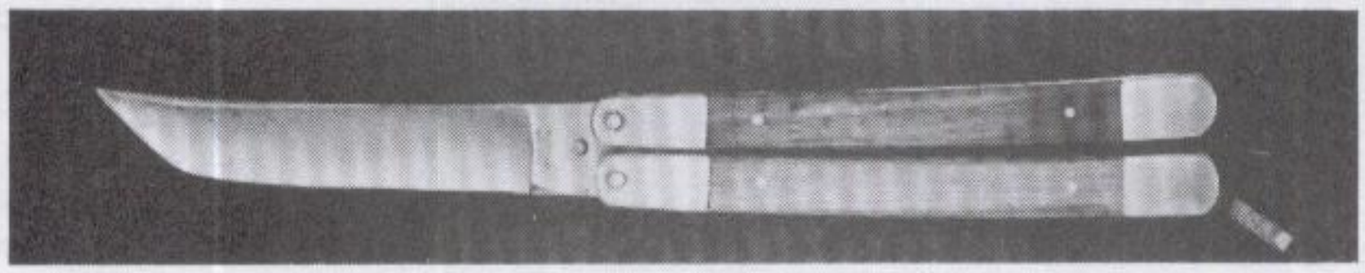
Model BFC-6



Importer: Royal Cutlery
Model: BFB-6
Weight: 5½ oz.
Size: 5″ closed, 8½″ open
Blade: Teflon coated stainless sabre
Handles: Brass sandwiched with black plastic/rubber handle
Price: $25.00

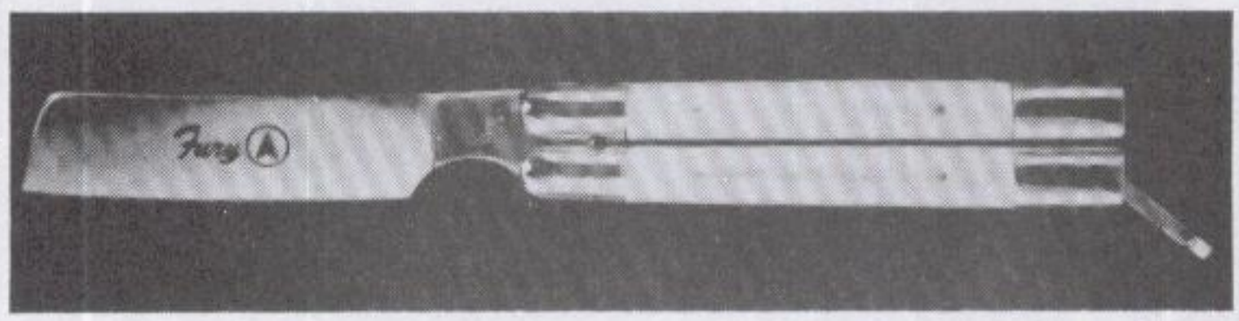
Importer: Royal Cutlery
Model: BFC-6
Weight: 7 oz.
Size: 5¼″ closed, 9″ open
Blade: Teflon coated stainless sabre
Handles: Solid contour diecast with painted camouflage
Price: $25.00

Model 1084



Manufacturer: Taylor/Seto
Model: 1084
Weight: 6 oz.
Size: 5″ closed, 8½″ open
Blade: 3½″ surgical steel tanto
Handles: Open edged stainless with rosewood inserts
Price: $22.92

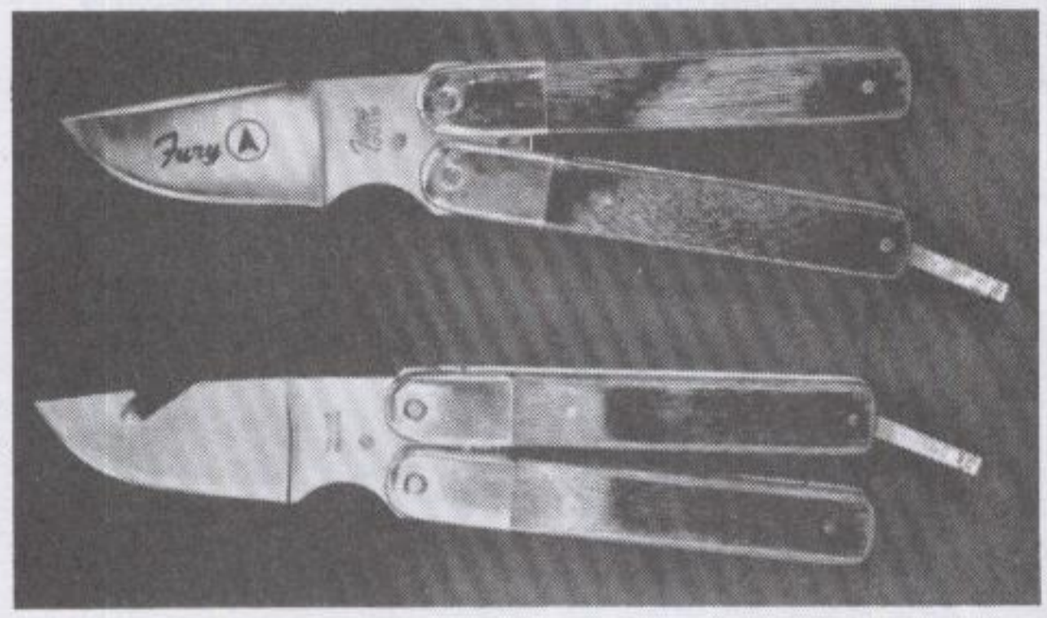
Model 10391



Importer: Fury Cutlery
made in Japan
Model: 10391
Weight: 6½ oz.
Size: 5″ closed, 8½″ open
Blade: 3″ 440 stainless razor
Handles: Brass lined, chrome bolsters and bone inserts
Price: $29.50

Model 10315

Taylor Skinner

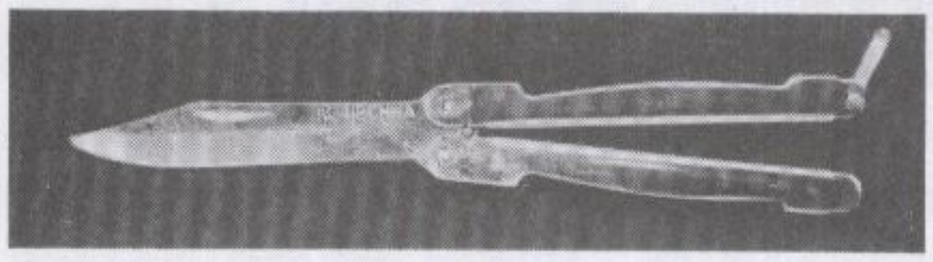


Importer: Fury Cutlery
Model: 10315
Weight: 6 oz.
Size: 4″ closed, 6½″ open
Blade: 2″ 440 stainless drop point
Handles: Open edged brass linings with nickel silver bolsters and laminated mahogany inserts
Price: $28.00

Knife manufacturing in Japan is pretty much a cottage industry, with parts and labor often interchanged as needed. One cutlery might also manufacture for many different importers. For that reason, the Fury pocket knife, below, closely resembles the Taylor skinner in parts and workmanship.

MISC. *continued*

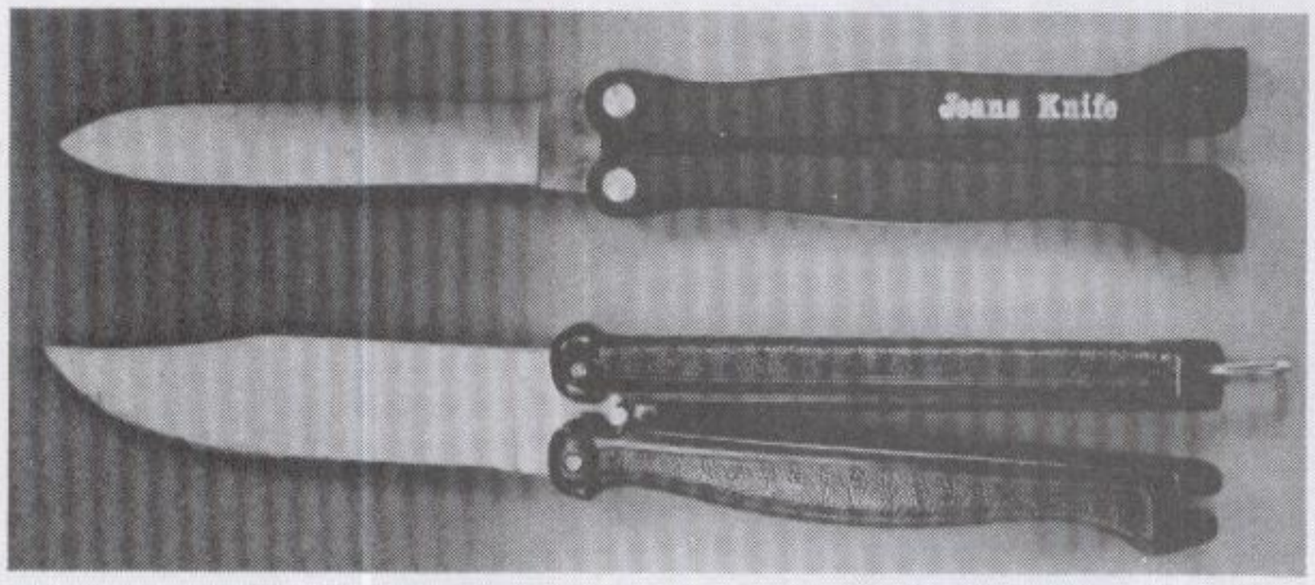
Model 13-418



Importer: Gutmann Cutlery
made in China
Model: 13-418
Weight: 1½ oz.
Size: 3-5/8″ closed, 6-3/8″ open
Blade: 3″ stainless sabre
Handles: Stamped, contoured chrome plated
Price: $2.00

Model Jeans Knife

Model 13-410



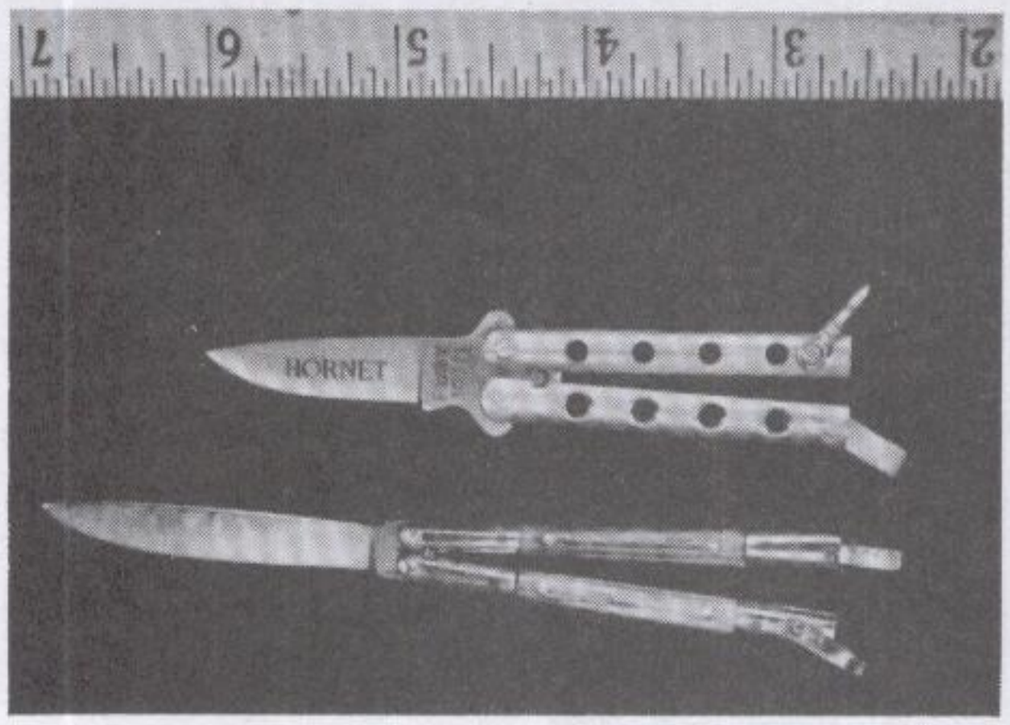
Importer: Professional Cutlery Service
made in Italy
Model: Jeans Knife
Weight: 3 oz.
Size: 4½″ closed, 8¼″ open
Blade: 3¼″ spear point
Handles: Plastic and metal spring lock—won't manipulate
Price: $7.50

Importer: Gutmann Cutlery
made in Hong Kong
Model: 13-410
Weight: 2 oz.
Size: 5″ closed, 8¼″ open
Blade: 3¾″ stainless clip
Handles: Plastic
Price: $2.50

The smallest butterflies

Model 10311 Hornet

Philippine Butterfly



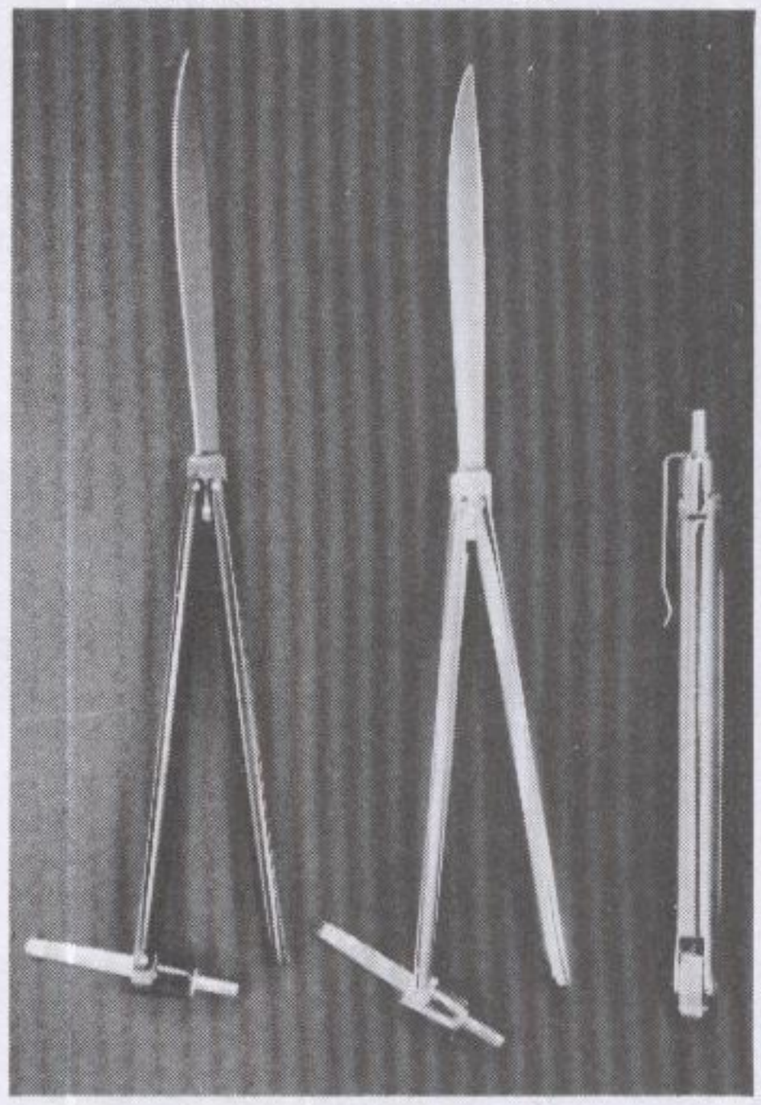
Importer: Fury Cutlery
made in Japan
Model: 10311 Hornet
Weight: 1 oz.
Size: 2¼″ closed, 3½″ open
Blade: 1½″ 440 stainless utility
Handles: Solid drilled brass
Price: $15.00

Manufacturer: Made in the Philippines
Weight: 1 oz.
Size: 2½″ closed, 4½″ open
Blade: 2″ high carbon steel clip
Handles: Brass linings and bolsters with bone inserts
Price: $10.00

DISGUISED BUTTERFLIES

These disguised butterflies take the form of ballpoint and fountain pens. They aren't meant for combat, but as a tool containing an element of surprise. A disguised butterfly knife can be useful in an emergency.

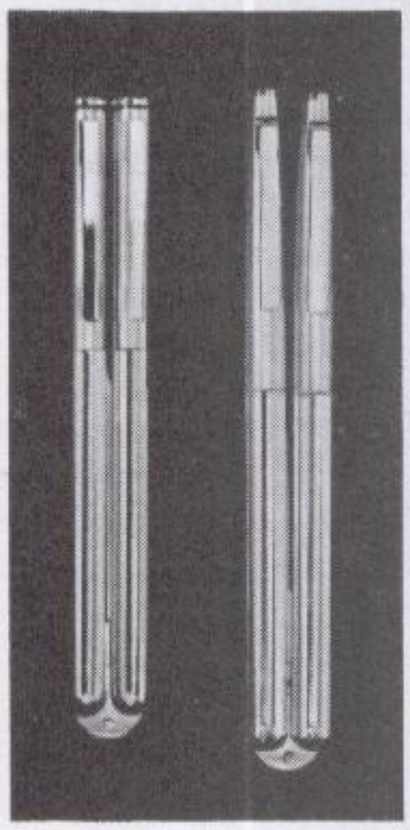
Model 654 **Model 653**

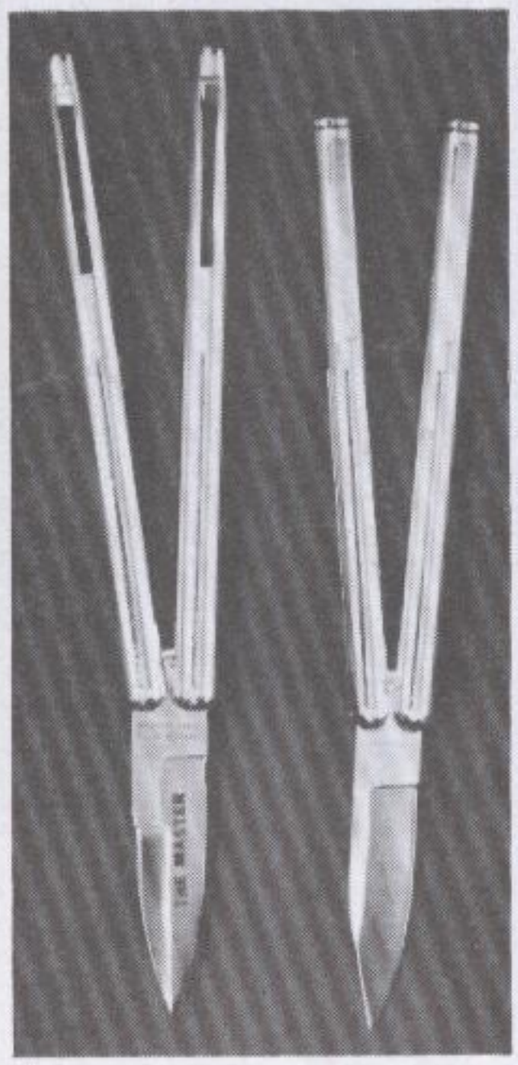


Importer: Valor Corporation
made in Japan
Model: 654
Weight: 1½ oz.
Size: 5″ closed, 8¼″ open
Blade: 3¼″ 440 stainless steel teflon coated needle point
Handles: Diecast aluminum plated black with pocket clip
Price: $22.00

Model: 653
Blade: 3¼″ 440 stainless steel needle point
Handle: Diecast aluminum with pocket clip
Price: $22.00

Model 1275-S **Model 650**





Manufacturer: Taylor/Seto
Model: 1275-S The Master
Weight: 3½ oz.
Size: 5½″ closed, 8″ open
Blade: 2¼″ surgical steel stiletto
Handles: Chrome plated pens with pocket clips
Price: $26.69

(Available in gold, model #1275-G)

Importer: Valor Corporation
Model: 650 Double Pen Butterfly
Weight: 3 oz.
Size: 5″ closed, 7½″ open
Blade: 2-1/8″ 440 stainless utility
Handles: Chrome plated pens with pocket clips
Price: $25.00

PACIFIC CUTLERY

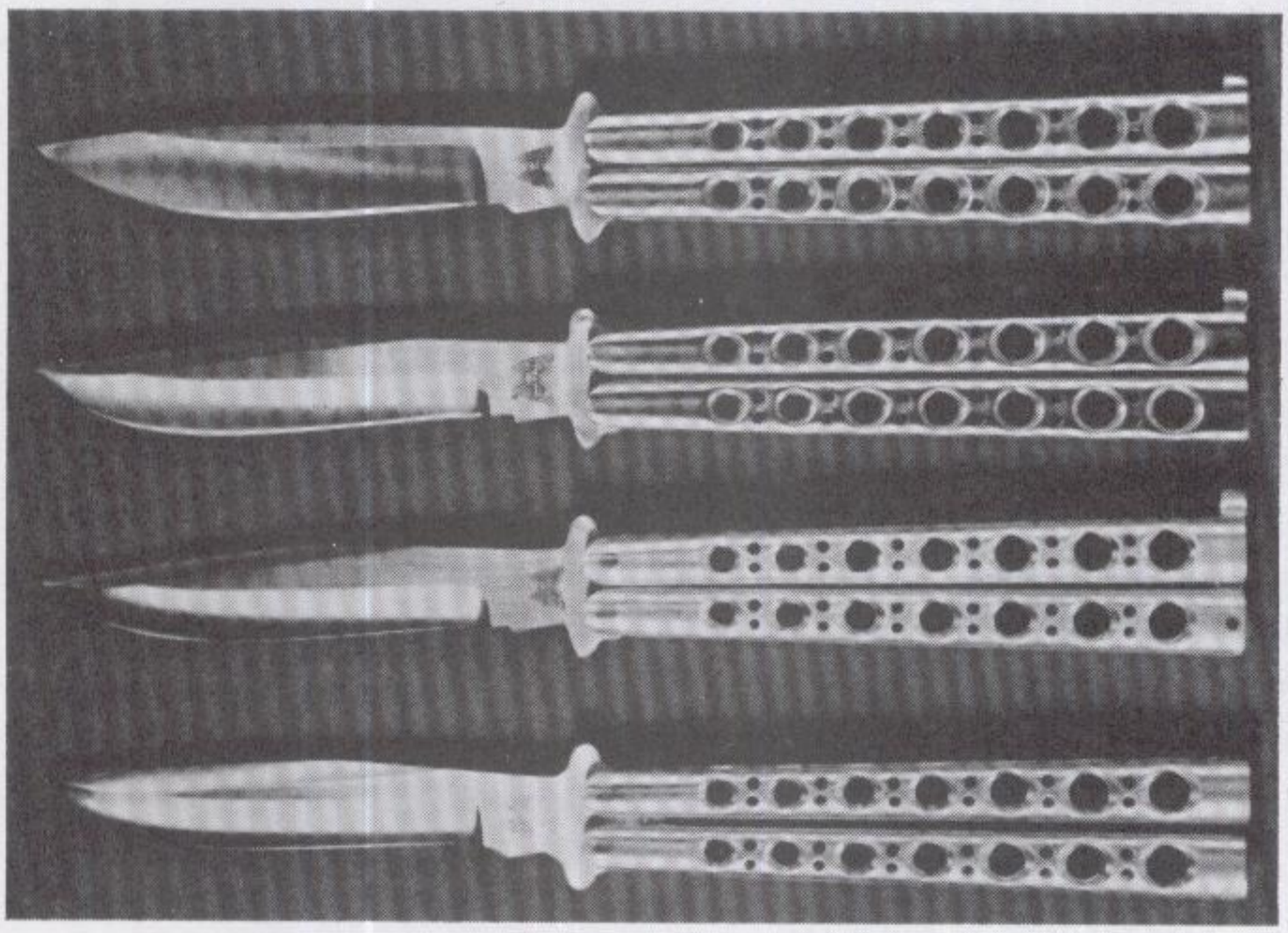
Pacific Cutlery is a very special company. Its success is due to the perseverance of its founder, Les De Asis. Since 1979, it has grown from a kitchen table operation into the most highly regarded custom knifemaker in the field. Listed here are the custom presentation knives that Pacific Cutlery's reputation is built upon. They are considered the best knives in the world.

Model 401

Model 402

Model 402A

Model 402B



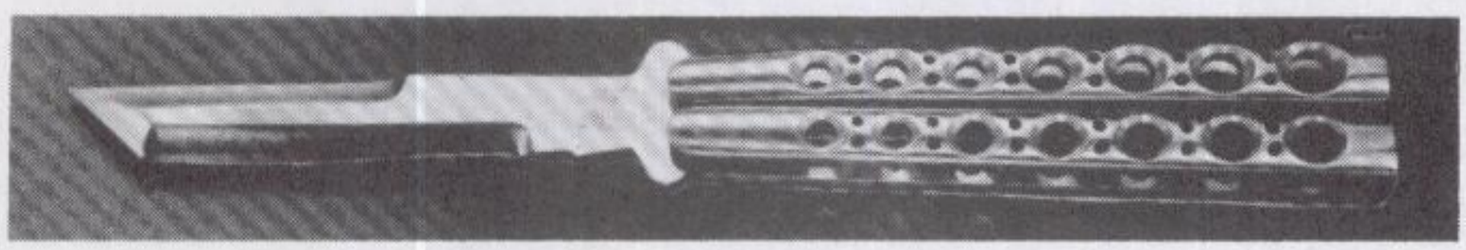
Model: 401
Weight: 8 oz.
Size: 5-1/8″ closed, 9-1/8″ open
Blade: 4″ 440C stainless steel utility
Handles: Skeleton holes machined from 303S stainless steel bars
Price: $240.00

Model: 402
Blade: 4″ 440C stainless steel Bowie
Price: $240.00

Model: Custom
Weight: 4 oz.
Handles: Skeleton holes machined from aircraft aluminum bars
Price: $260.00

Model: Custom (no longer available)
Weight: 8 oz.
Handles: Latchless skeleton machined out of solid brass bars
Price: $220.00

Model 404

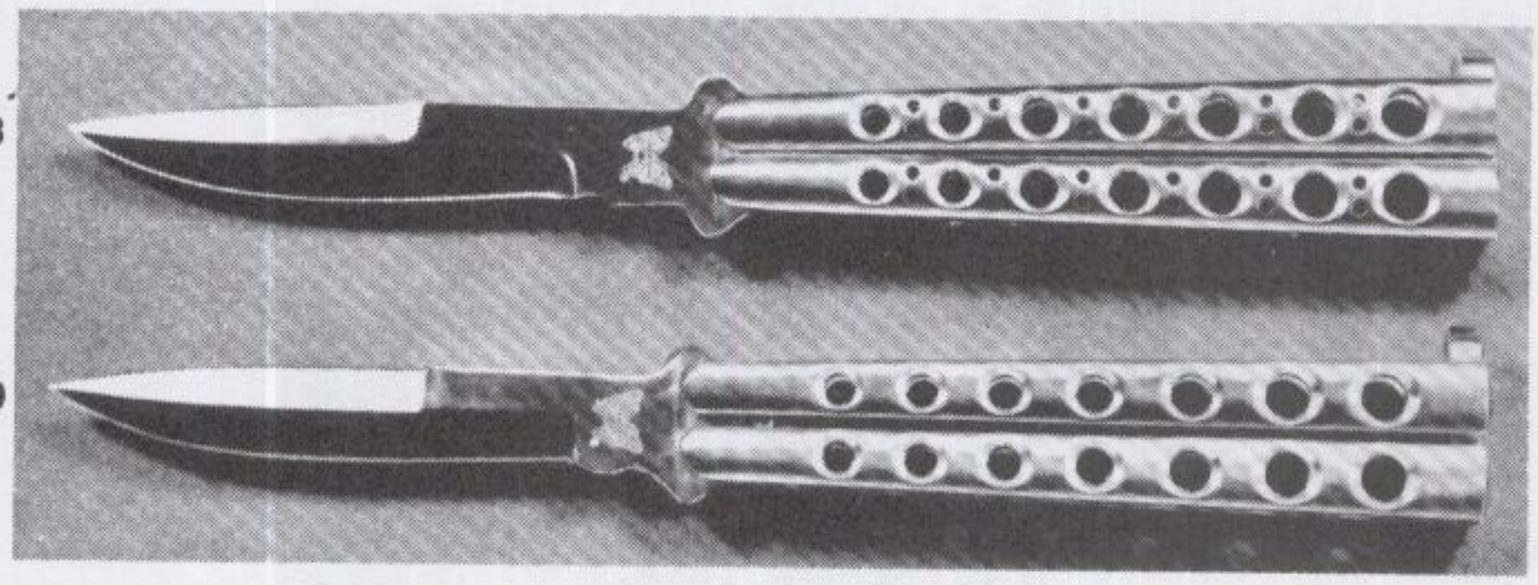


Model: 404
Weight: 7½ oz.
Blade: 4″ 440C stainless Wee Hawk tanto
Price: $260.00

PACIFIC CUTLERY *continued*

Model 403

Model 129



Model: 403
Weight: 8 oz.
Size: 5-1/8″ closed, 9-1/8″ open
Blade: 4″ 440C stainless Wee Hawk
Handles: Skeleton holes machined from 303S stainless steel bars
Price: $240.00

Model: 129
Weight: 8 oz.
Size: 5-1/8″ closed, 9-1/8″ open
Blade: 4″ 440C stainless Wee Hawk
Handles: Diecast alloy with holes
Price: $50.00

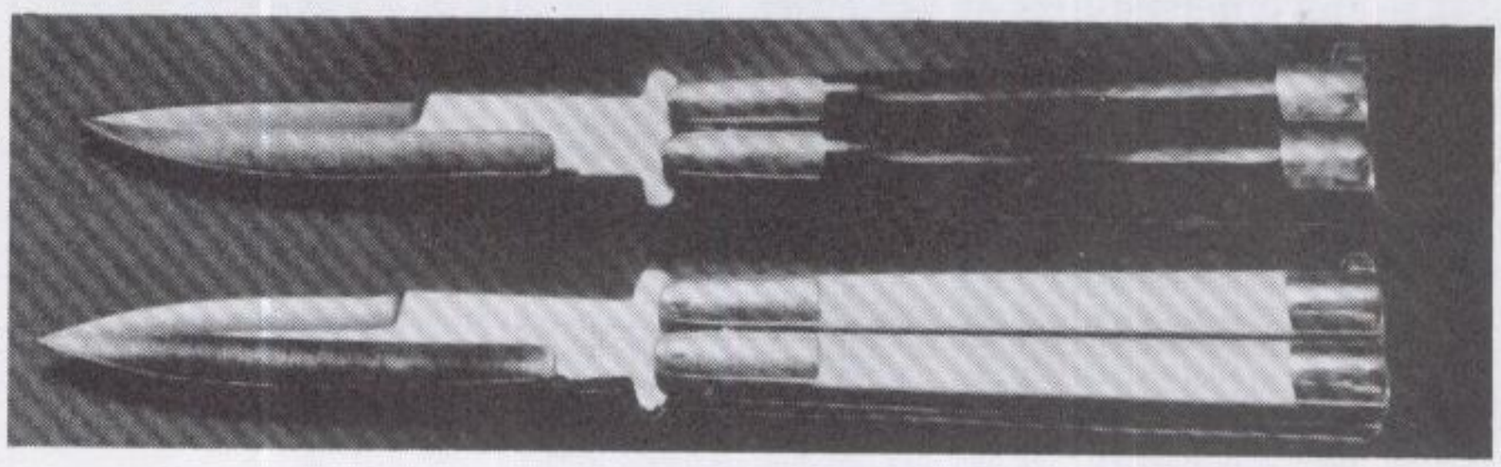
Early in 1985, Pacific Cutlery felt it was missing the boat. Other companies were importing low-priced butterflies and making a killing, but Pacific, which started the balisong revolution, didn't have an inexpensive model. As a result, model 129 was hastily commissioned out of Japan.

When the first shipment arrived, the finished product didn't meet Pacific Cutlery's rigid standards. The order was rejected and canceled.

A real predicament developed, since Know Now had advertised this new model sight unseen and was getting orders. So, to make a long story short, about 200 model 129s were retained and shipped to people who had placed the early orders. The positive side of this episode is that the few 129s in existence are valuable collector's items.

Model 208

Model 207



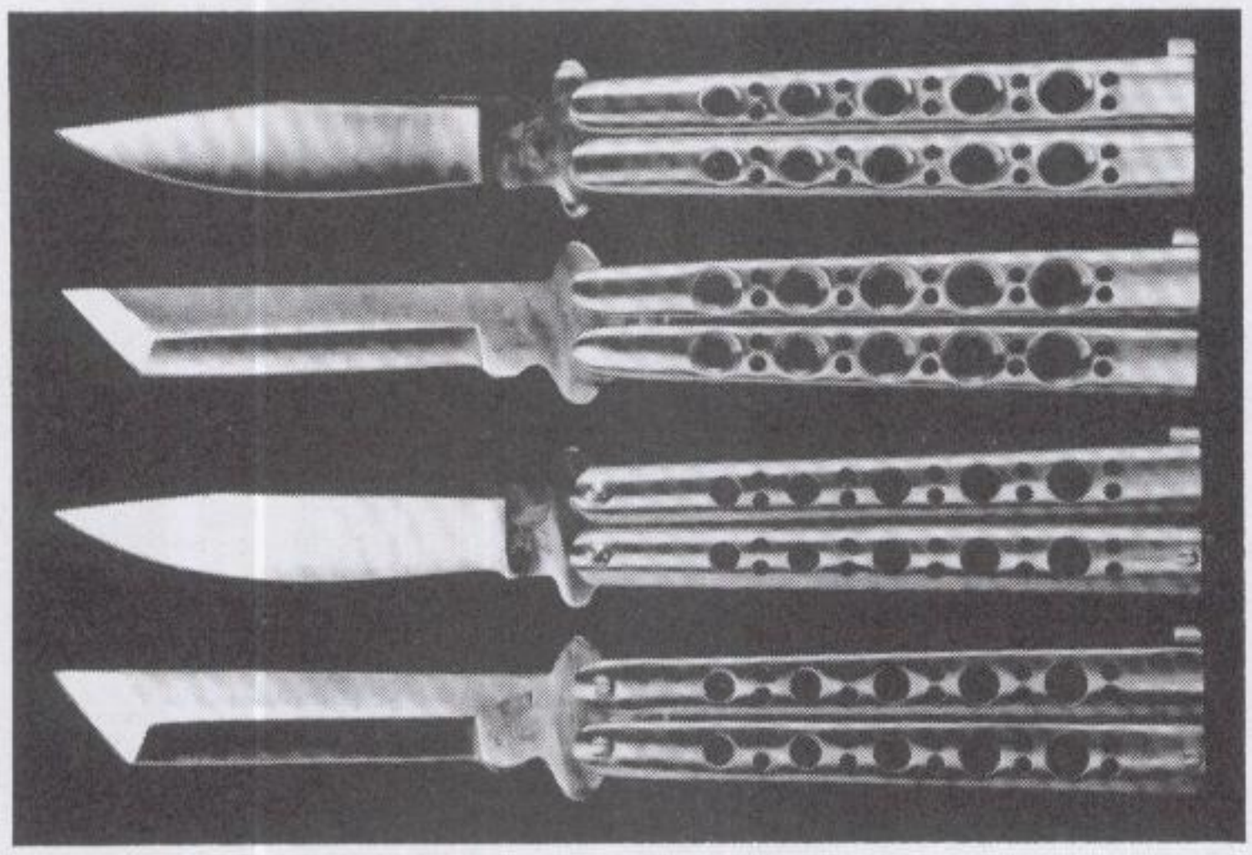
Model: 208
Weight: 8 oz.
Size: 5¼″ closed, 9″ open
Blade: 4″ 440C stainless steel Wee Hawk
Handles: Milled stainless steel with burgundy micarta inlays
Price: $275.00

Model: 207
Handles: Milled stainless steel with ivory micarta inlays
Price: $275.00

U.S.A. PRODUCTION BALISONGS

As part of its continuing efforts to come out with a more affordable product, Pacific Cutlery introduced the smaller U.S.A. production balisongs in 1983.

The Pacific Cutlery models #69 and 11 were discontinued in late 1986, after one year of production.



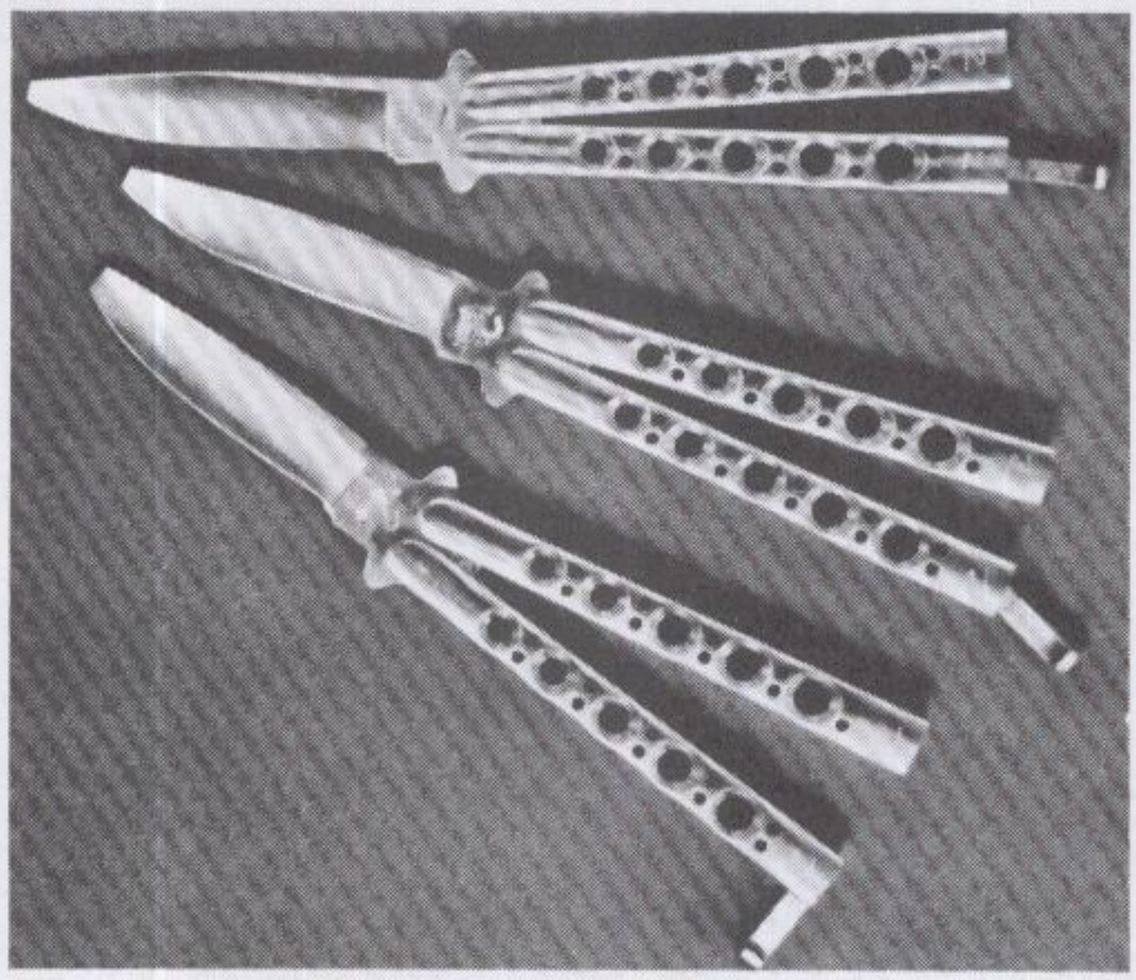
Model: 68
Weight: 5 oz.
Size: 4½" closed, 7½" open
Blade: 3½" stainless utility 57-59 Rockwell hardness
Handles: Cast with skeleton holes from 17-4 PH stainless aircraft alloy
Price: $75.00

Model: 69
Blade: 3½" stainless tanto
Price: $75.00

Model: 10
Weight: 5½ oz.
Price: $60.00

The model 10 is identical to the model 68, except the pins are not polished and blended into the handles and the larger handle holes are not countersunk.

Model: 11
Blade: 3½" stainless tanto
Price: $60.00



Practice Knives

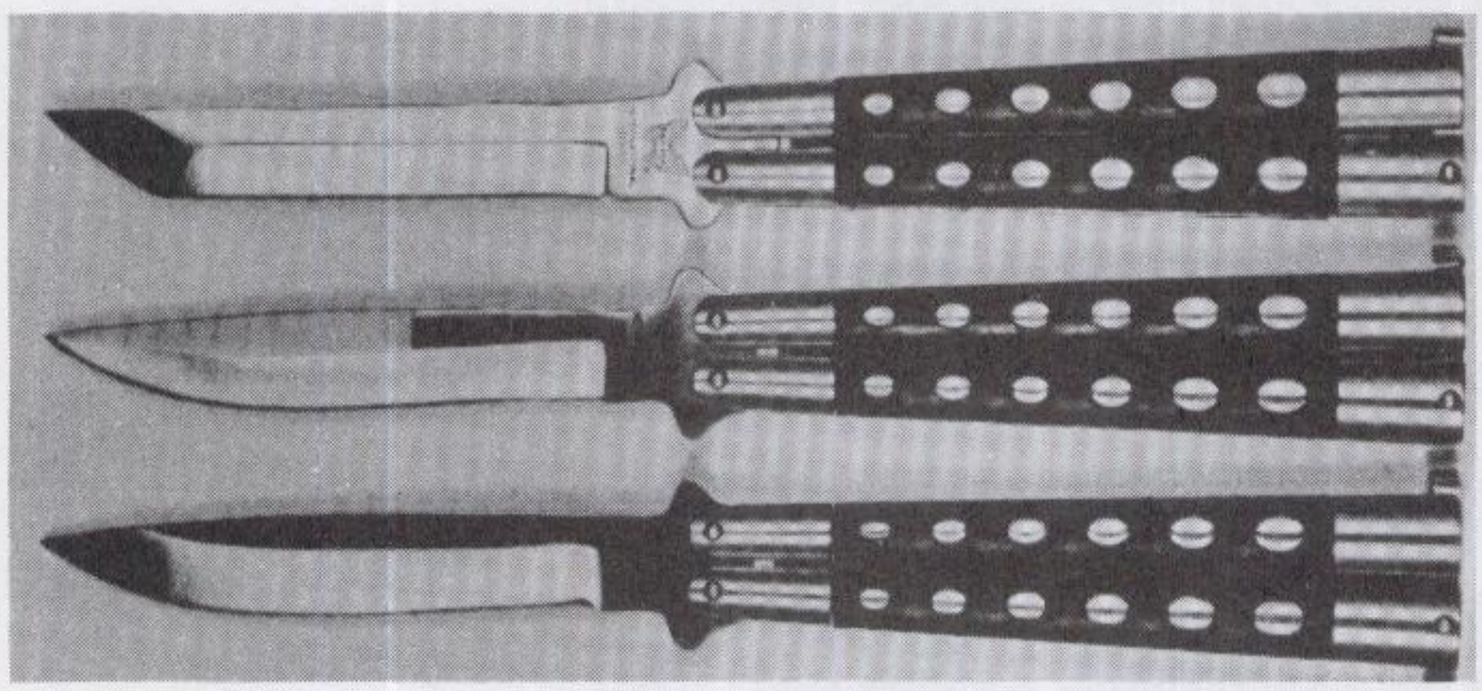
THE "STATUS" PRACTICE KNIVES

The high cost of Pacific Cutlery knives results from about 25 percent of them being thrown out because they do not meet PC's high standards. The practice knives resulted one afternoon when George Foon was wandering around the shop and noticed a large pile of model 68s in the garbage bin. After

much arguing and negotiating, a reluctant Les De Asis gave them up. Before they were released, the blades were flattened, and the handles had the number "2" engraved on them, meaning seconds. The fear was that people would buy a practice knife and return it for warranty work, thus getting a new knife for a song. Know Now sold a few of these for $15. They are no longer available, and are a part of Pacific Cutlery history.

THE INTERNATIONAL SERIES

The Internationals are Pacific Cutlery's lowest-priced balisongs. Now every butterfly enthusiast can afford a real Pacific Cutlery balisong. These are produced in Japan under Pacific Cutlery's strict standards and design guidance.



Model 158

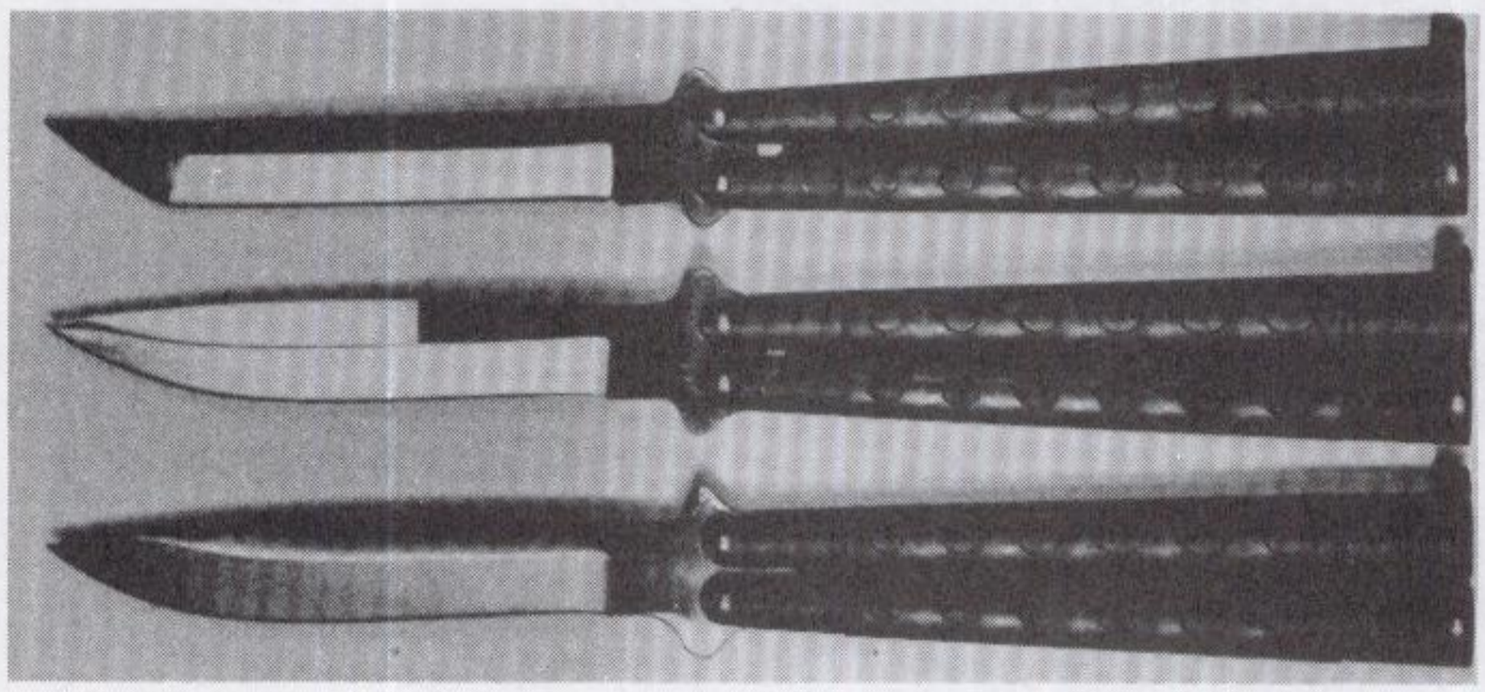
Model 159

Model 160

Model: 158
Weight: 7 oz.
Size: 5½" closed, 9½" open
Blade: 4" 440C stainless tanto
Handles: Chromed diecast handles with black resin inserts
Price: $33.00

Model: 159
Blade: 4" 440C stainless Wee Hawk

Model: 160
Blade: 4" 440C stainless utility



Model 168

Model 169

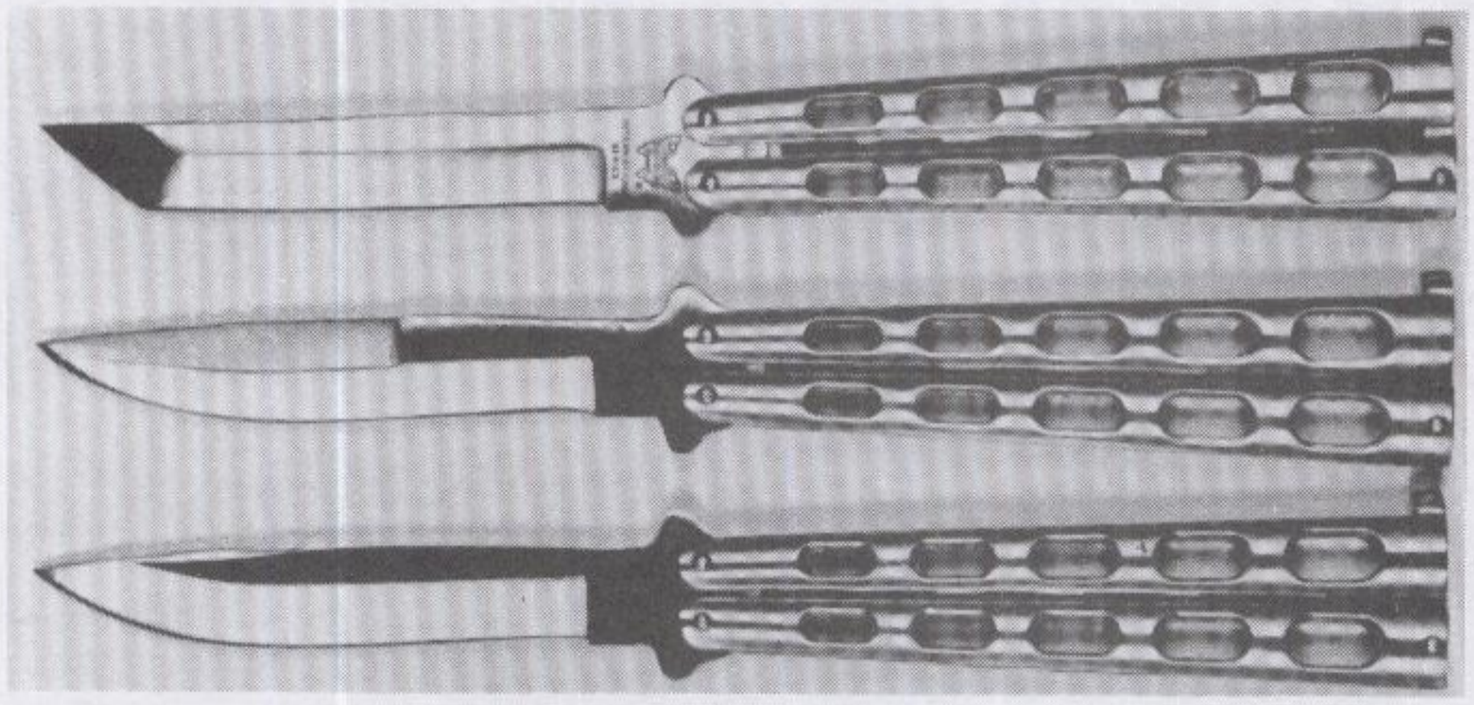
Model 170

Model: 168
Blade: 4" 440C stainless tanto
Handles: Black diecast handles with black resin inserts
Price: $33.00

Model: 169
Blade: 4" 440C stainless Wee Hawk

Model: 170
Blade: 4" 440C stainless utility

PACIFIC CUTLERY *continued*



Model 138

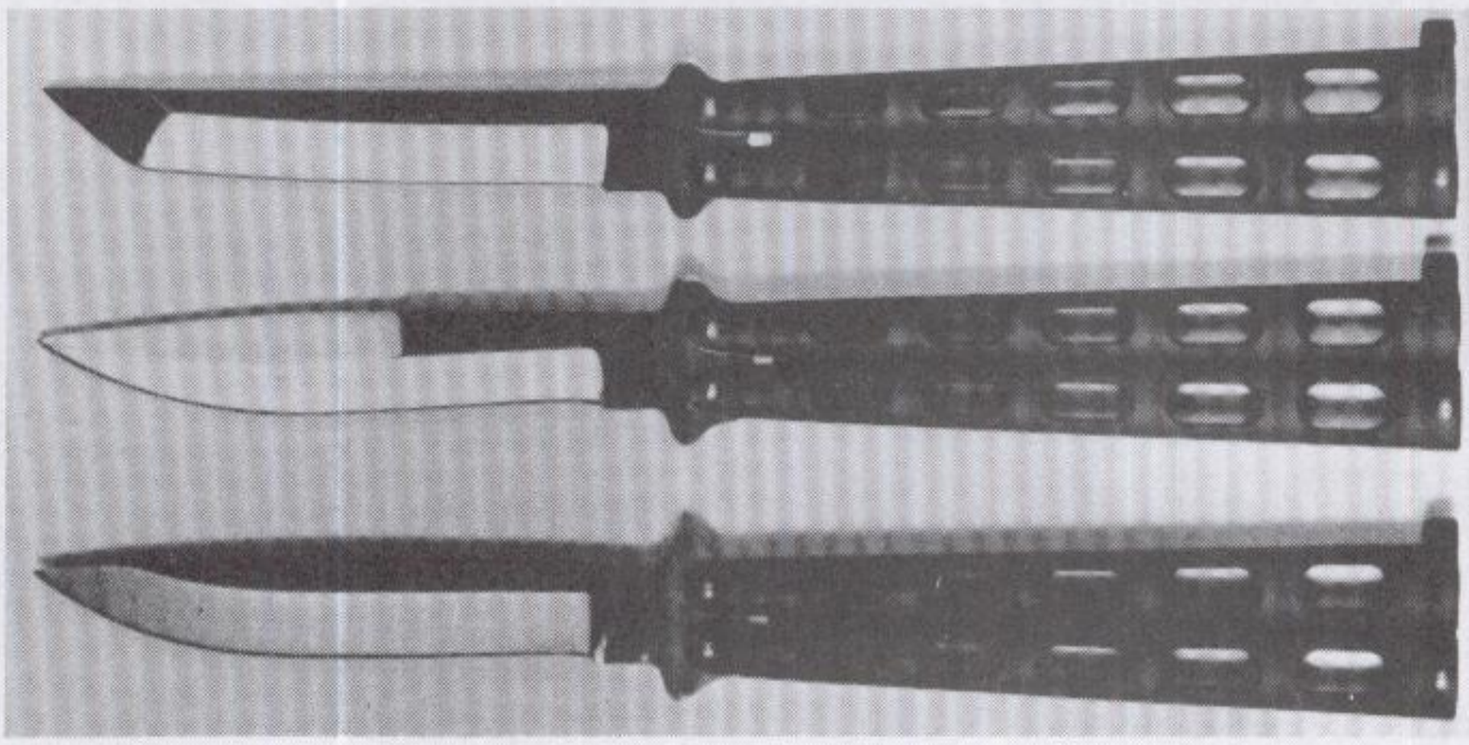
Model 139

Model 140

Model: 138
Weight: 6 oz.
Size: 5½" closed, 9½" open
Blade: 4" 440C stainless tanto
Handles: Chromed diecast slotted handles
Price: $33.00

Model: 139
Blade: 4" 440C stainless Wee Hawk

Model: 140
Blade: 4" 440C stainless utility



Model 148

Model 149

Model 150

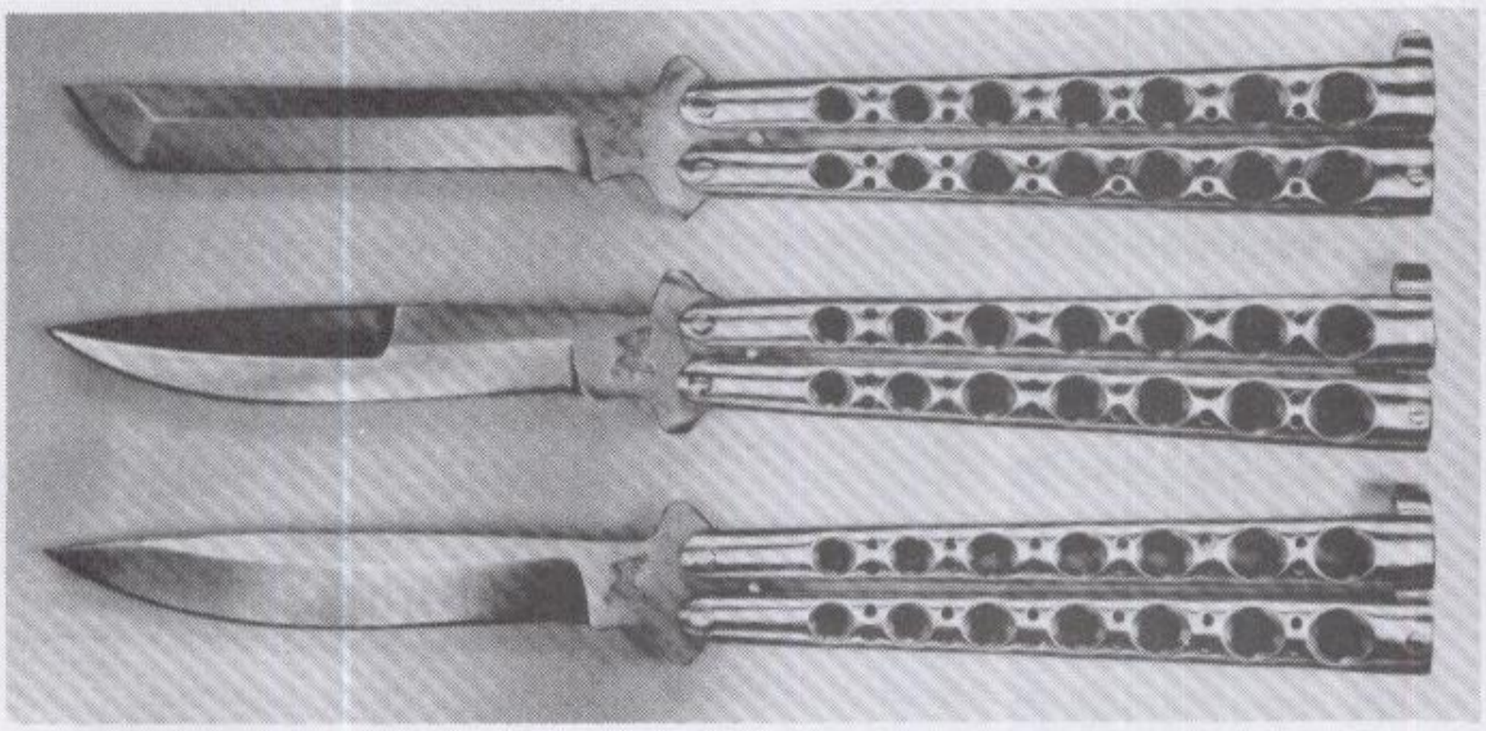
Model: 148
Blade: 4" 440C stainless tanto
Handles: Black diecast slotted handles with black-nite finish
Price: $33.00

Model: 149
Blade: 4" 440C stainless Wee Hawk

Model: 150
Blade: 4" 440C stainless utility

U.S.A. PRODUCTION FOUR-INCH BALISONGS

These bench-made U.S.A. production balisongs were introduced in 1986 to give people the feel of the custom presentation butterfly knife without the high cost. They are what the model 129 was meant to be.



Model 44

Model 43

Model 41

Model: 44
Weight: 8 oz.
Size: 5¼" closed, 9" open
Blade: 4" 440C stainless tanto
Handles: Investment cast stainless with skeleton design
Price: $85.00

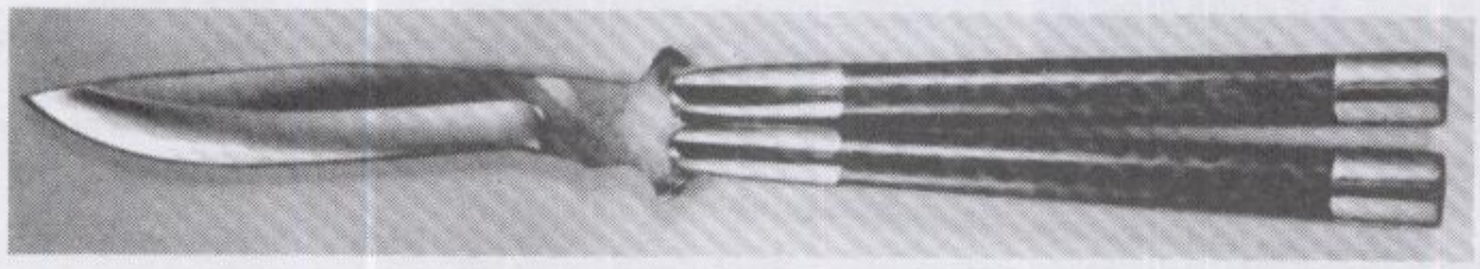
Model: 43
Blade: 4" 440C stainless Wee Hawk
Price: $85.00

Model: 41
Blade: 4" 440C stainless utility
Price: $85.00

The Pacific Cutlery models #41 and 44 were discontinued in late 1986, after only 8 months of production.

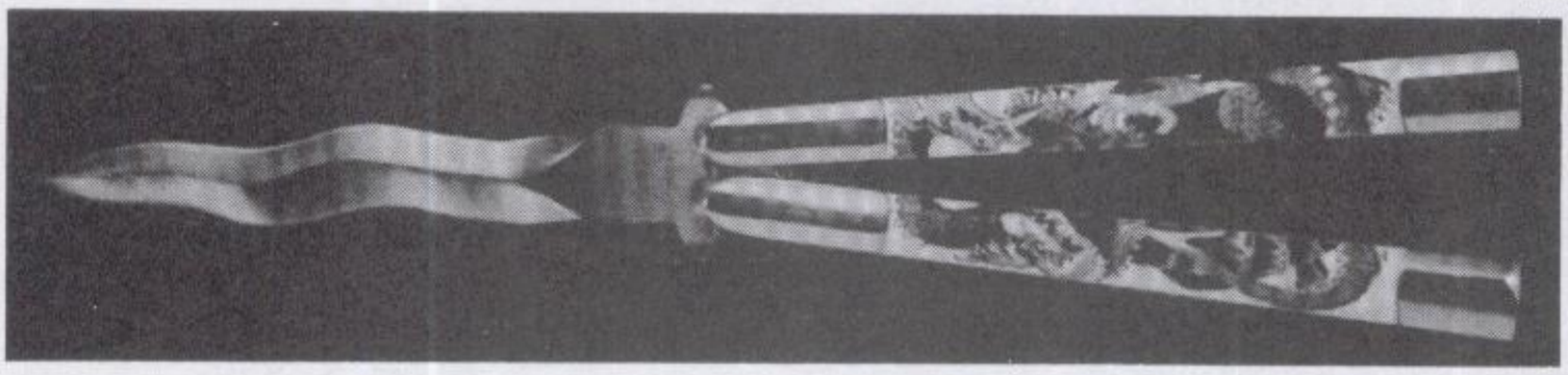
PACIFIC CUTLERY CUSTOM BALISONG OPTIONS

Custom knives by Pacific Cutlery are status symbols, like a Rolls Royce, Rolex watch, Leica camera or a gold chalice. You can get by with a Hyundai, Timex, disc camera or Dixie cup. But if money is no object, these knives are it!



Special order balisongs

Blade: 4″ 440C stainless steel reverse utility
Handles: Milled stainless steel with snake wood inlays
Price: $400.00



Blade: 4″ 440C stainless Filipino Kris
Handles: Milled stainless steel with ivory scrimshaw
Price: $500.00

Scrimshaw is the art of carving, scratching or engraving on a base material with a scribe, scalpel or tattoo needle. Permanent India ink is added to bring out the image. The cost of such work is determined by the labor, time, intricacy, the number of colors and the fame of the scrimshander. Scrimshaw can add from $200 to $500 to the cost of a knife.

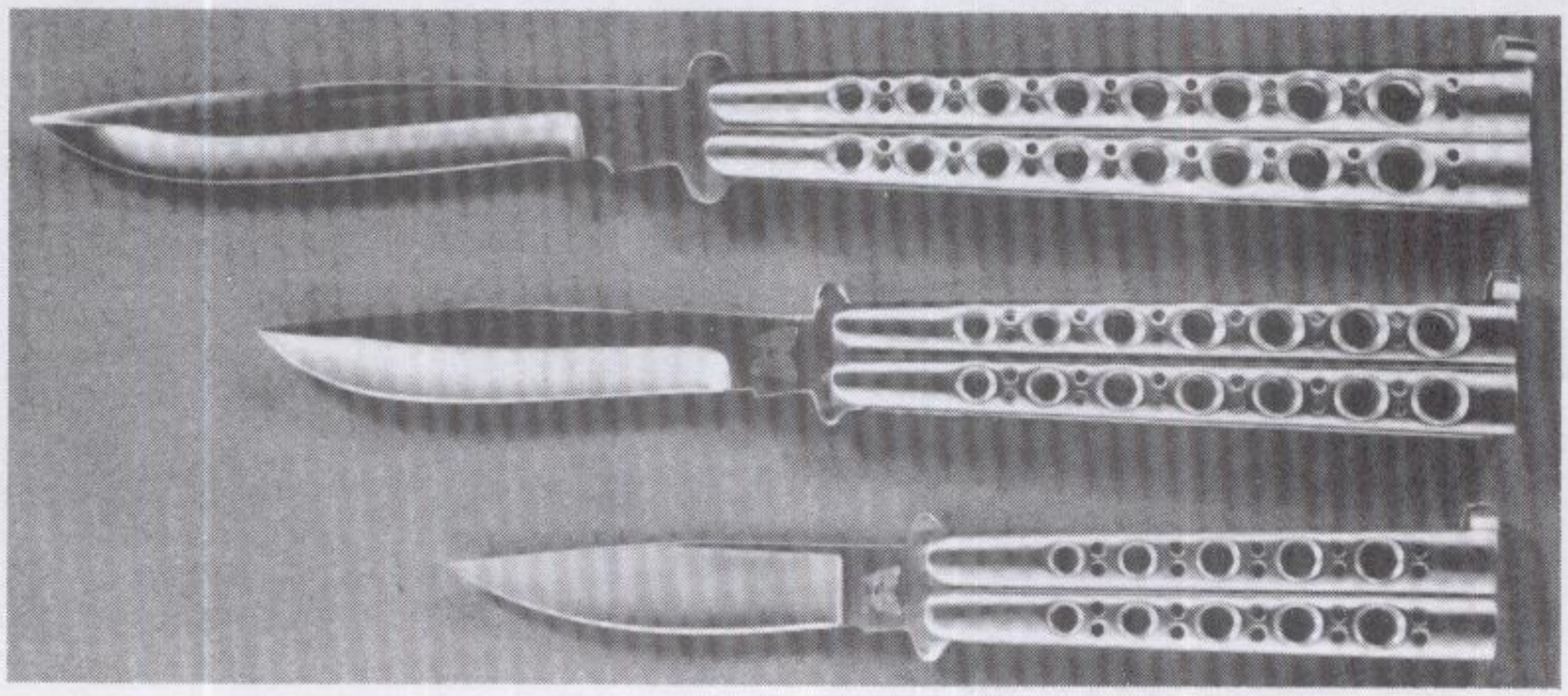
The tanto and Wee Hawk blades are also available in this size.

Model: 605
Weight: 10 oz.
Size: 6½″ closed, 11″ open
Blade: 5″ 440C stainless Bowie
Handles: Skeleton design milled from 303S stainless bars
Price: $325.00

Model 605

Model 401

Model 68



PACIFIC CUTLERY CUSTOM BALISONG OPTIONS

OPTIONAL HANDLE MATERIALS
(Stainless Steel is Standard)

Description	Cost
Aircraft Aluminum	Add: $20.00
Titanium	$1,000.00

OPTIONAL BLADE MATERIALS
(440C Stainless Steel is Standard)

Description	Cost
154CM S.S.	Add: $25.00
0-1 Carbon	$20.00
Damascus Steel	$300.00

All prices subject to change.

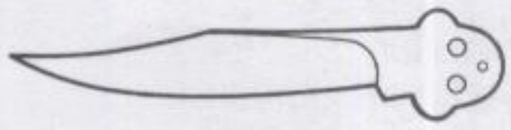
OPTIONAL INSERT MATERIALS
(Micarta is Standard)

Non-standard color micarta
Cocobolo wood
Bocate wood
Vermilion paduk wood
Cordia wood
Redwood burl
American walnut
Brazilian rosewood
Tulipwood
Ironwood
Purple heart
Zebrawood
African blackwood
Ebony
Kingwood
Briar
Sambar stag
Elephant ivory
Synthetic white mother of pearl
Synthetic black mother of pearl

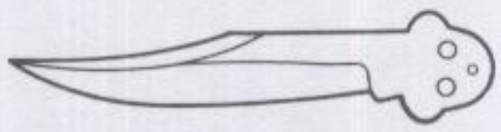
Optional insert material adds from $20.00 to $100.00 to the cost of the knife.

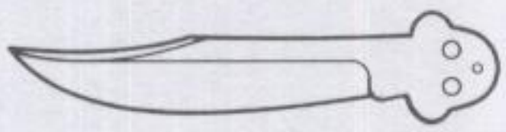
All prices subject to change.

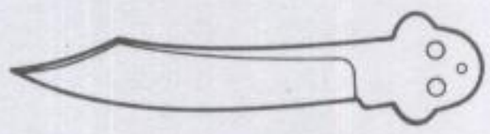
OPTIONAL BLADE STYLES
(Utility, Bowie, Weehawk & Tanto are Standard)

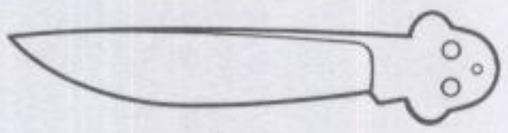

IMADA HIGH HOLLOW

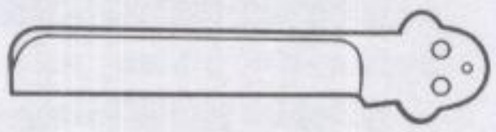
UP SWEPT BOWIE

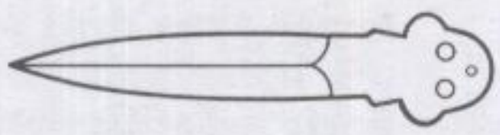

LONG CLIP BOWIE

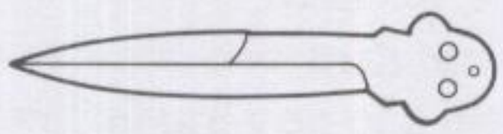

TRADITIONAL BOWIE

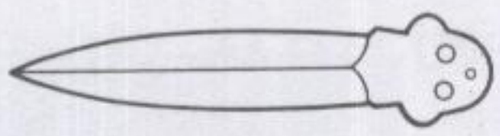

SIMITAR

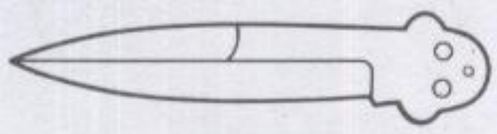

DROP POINT

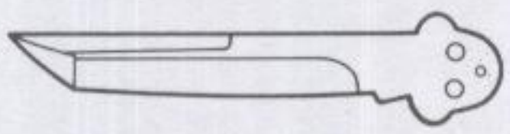

MARINER


STILETTO

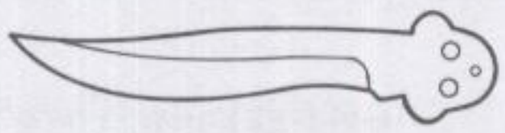

MODIFIED STILETTO


SPEAR POINT


MODIFIED SPEAR POINT


WEE HAWK TANTO

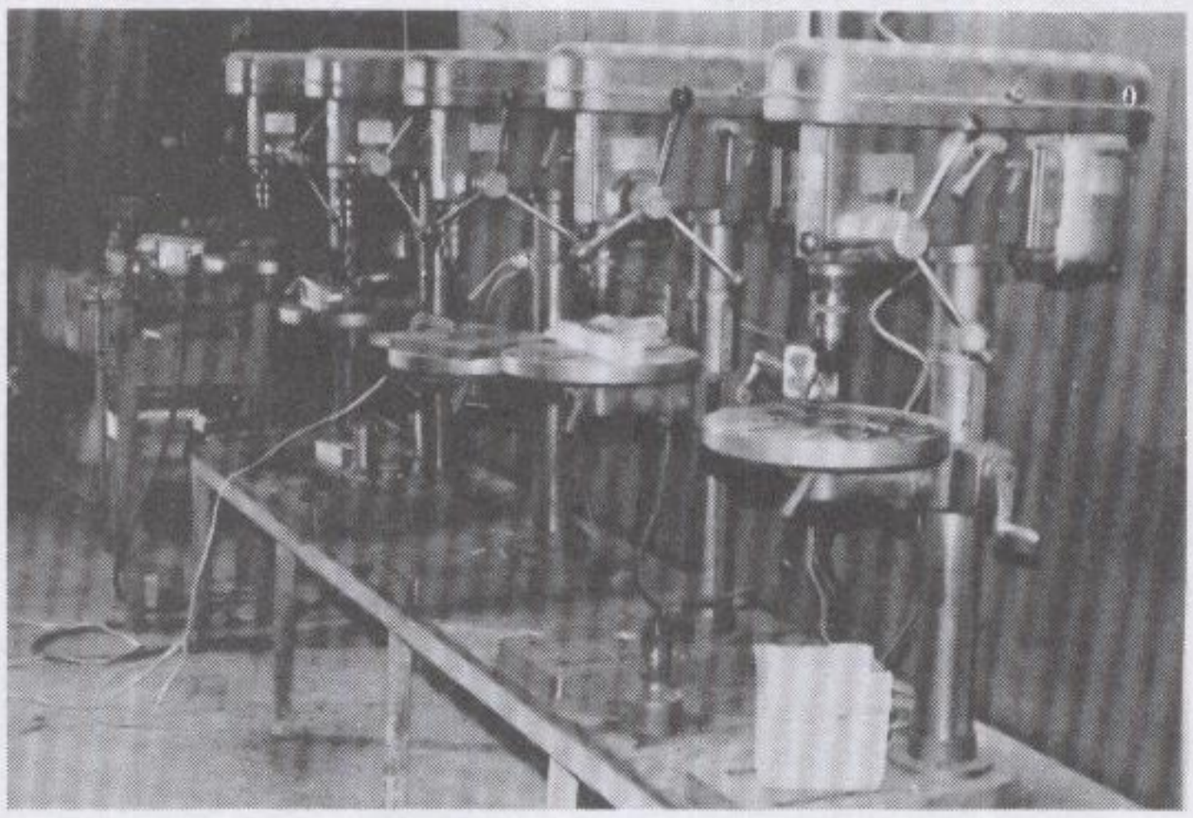
FILIPINO KRIS


UP SWEPT UTILITY

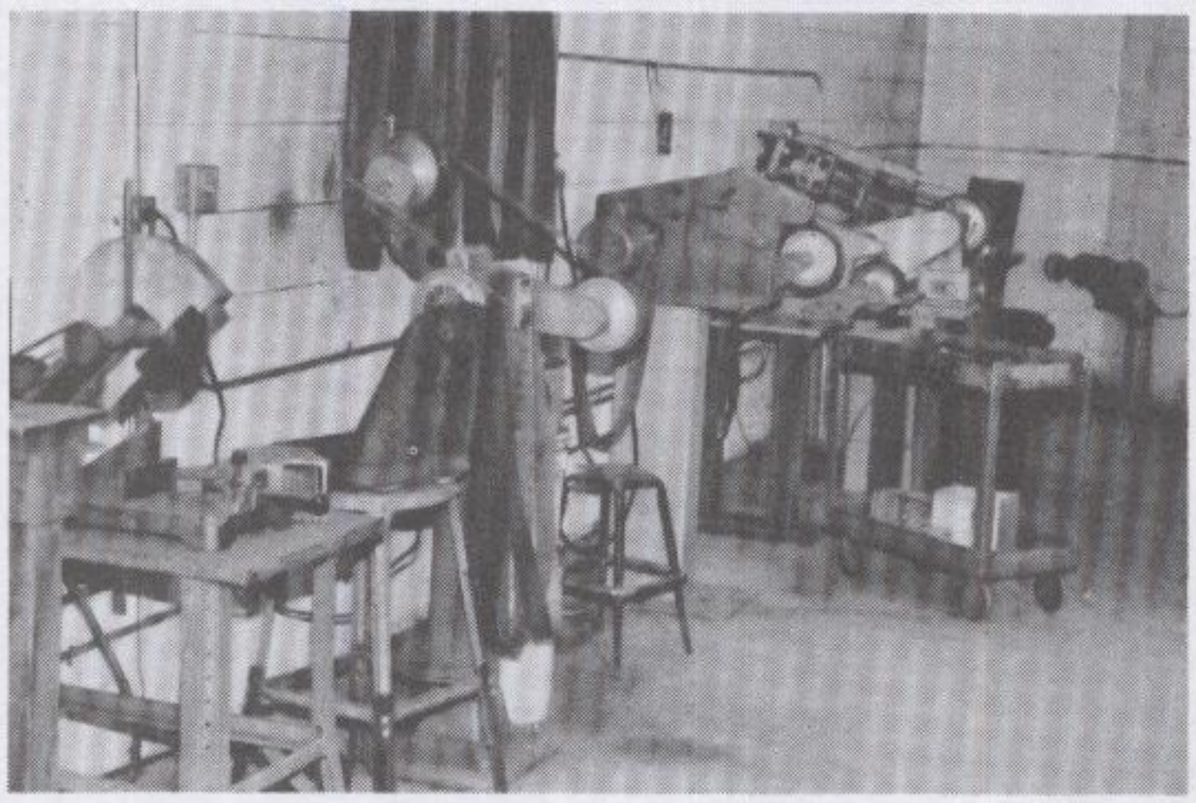
REVERSE UTILITY

Optional blades add from $20.00 to $125.00 to the cost of the knife.

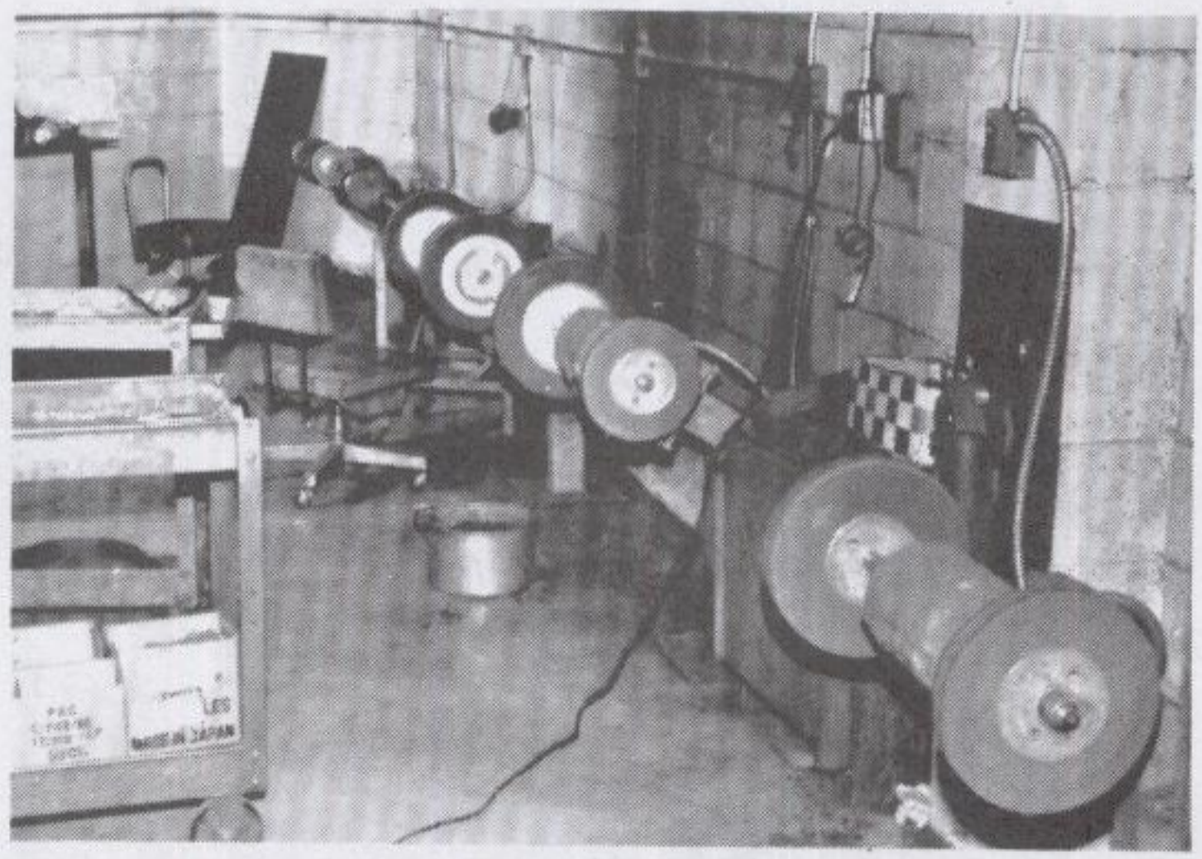
PACIFIC CUTLERY, INC.



In the Pacific Cutlery workshop, cleanliness is an important part of the daily routine. This bank of bench-type drill presses are used for making hinge pin holes and handles, and for repair work where parts must be drilled out to be replaced.



Belt grinders are the mainstay of the cutlery workshop. Because of the large abrasive surface, they can cut much faster than any wheel. Belt grinders are used for grinding and sharpening blades.



The buffing and finishing wheels are arranged in order of cutting power with the more abrasive wheels completely opposite the polishing wheels.

CARE AND TREATMENT

Just as your car and body require regular care and maintenance, so does your balisong knife. Reasonable care will assure you of a lifetime of continued fine performance.

1. KEEP THE BLADE CLEAN AND DRY AFTER USE. Even though modern knife steel is rust-resistant, it contains a very high amount of carbon to maintain its outstanding edge-holding qualities. Periodically, wipe your blade with a lightly oiled cloth to keep it in peak condition.

2. NEVER USE YOUR KNIFE AS A CHISEL, SCREWDRIVER OR PRYBAR. Prying can snap the blade or pop the rivets or pivot pins.

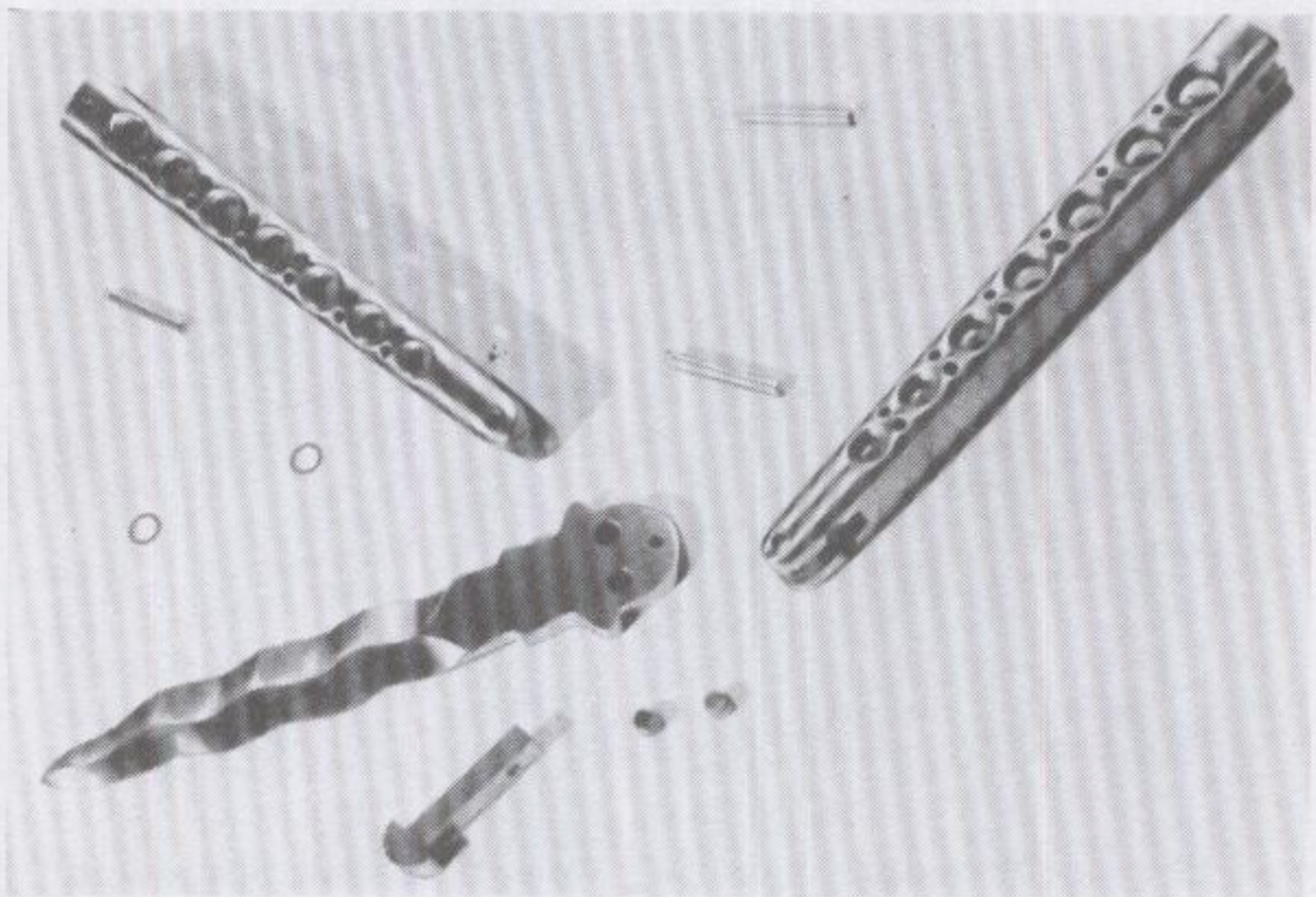
3. NEVER THROW A BALISONG KNIFE. It was not designed as a throwing knife and is not suited to that purpose. The impact will throw the parts out of alignment, or possibly cause the rivets to open so that the knife may come apart.

4. FOLDING KNIVES NEED LUBRICATION. An occasional drop or two of oil on the pivot points will promote smooth operation and ensure a long service life.

5. KEEP YOUR KNIFE SHARP. Sharp knives are safer than dull knives, because they cut with less pressure and so are less likely to slip. Also, the extra pressure when using a dull blade isn't good for the pivot pins in the handle assembly.

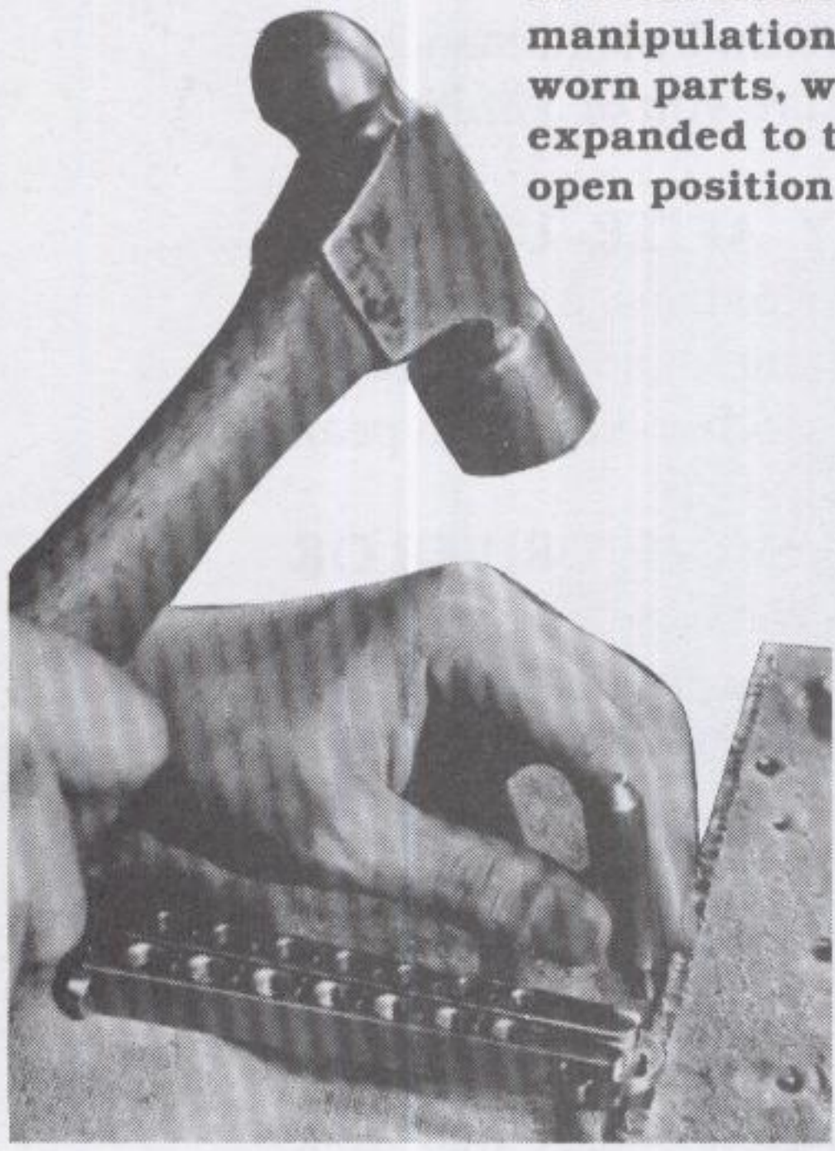
6. TREAT YOUR BALISONG WITH RESPECT. Handle it as the fine tool that it is, and a balisong will continue to serve your needs for many years.

REFURBISHING THE BALISONG



A typical Pacific Cutlery custom balisong contains fourteen parts: two handles, one blade, one latch, one latch pin, two hinge pins, one tang pin, two bushings and four shims.

In refurbishing a custom balisong, the knife is first manipulation-tested and then inspected for any worn parts, which are replaced. Next the tang pin is expanded to take the play out of the handles in the open position.

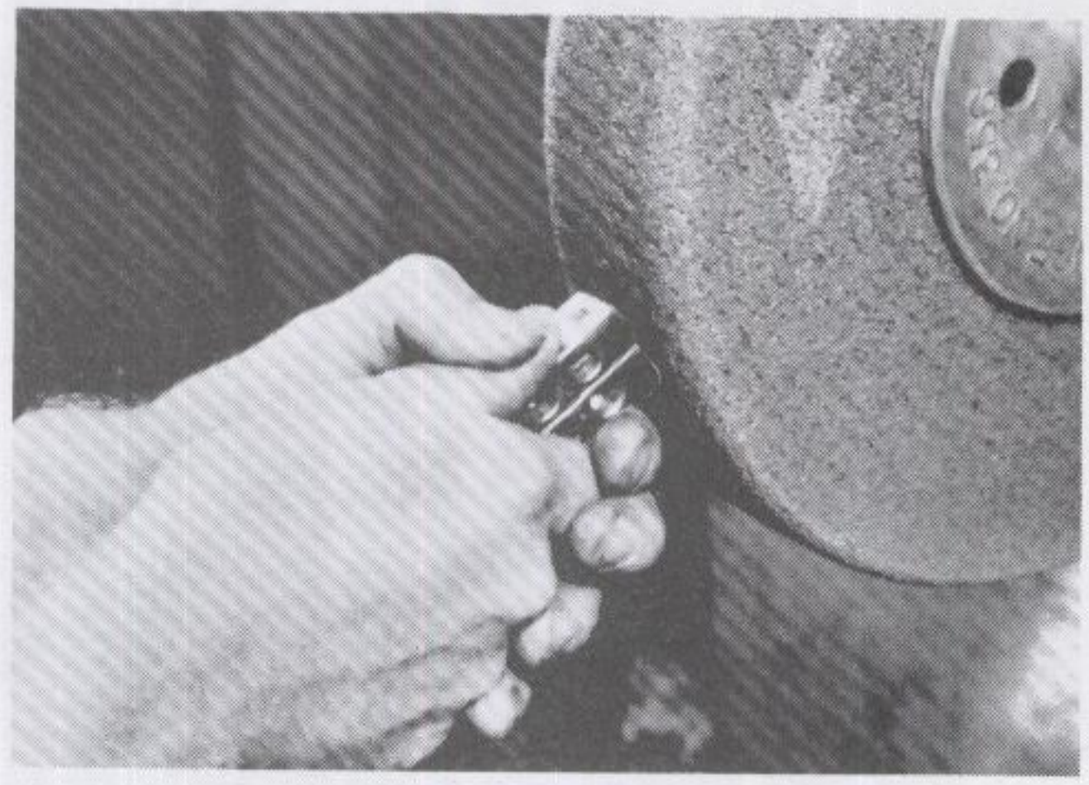


A Scotch Brite wheel is used to remove the scratches from the blade slot and tang area.

continued

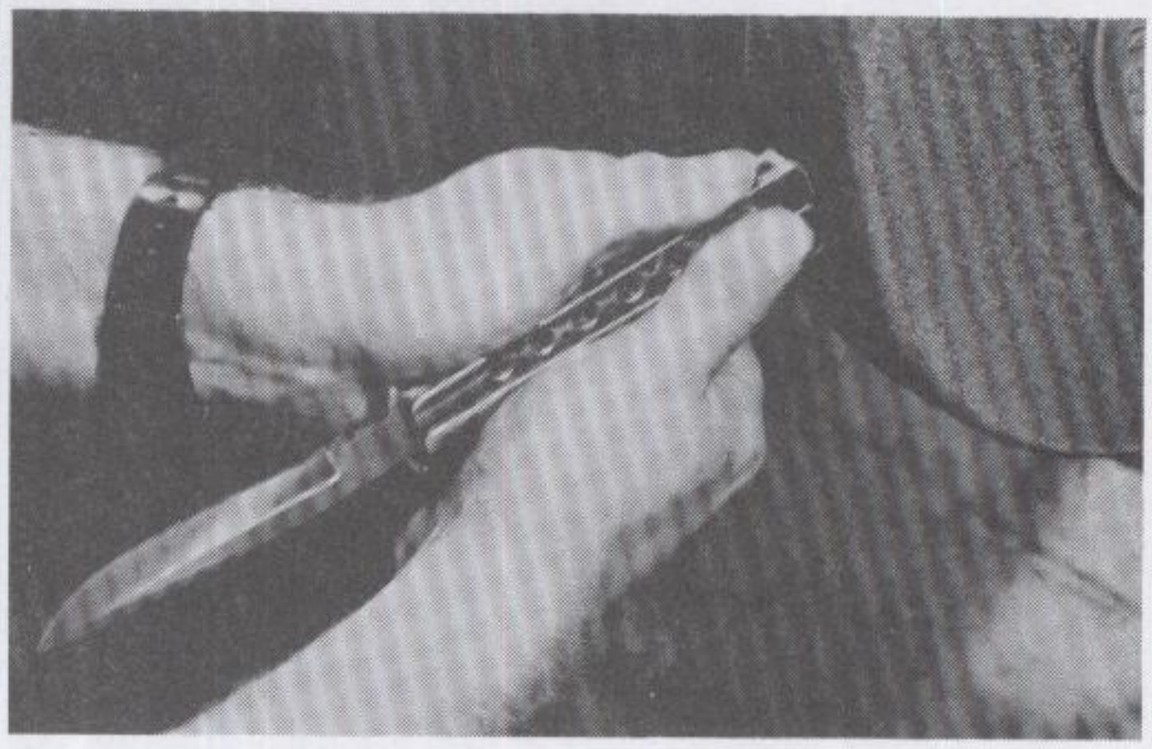
REFURBISHING *continued*

The scratches are removed from the tang slots and the outside handle backs.

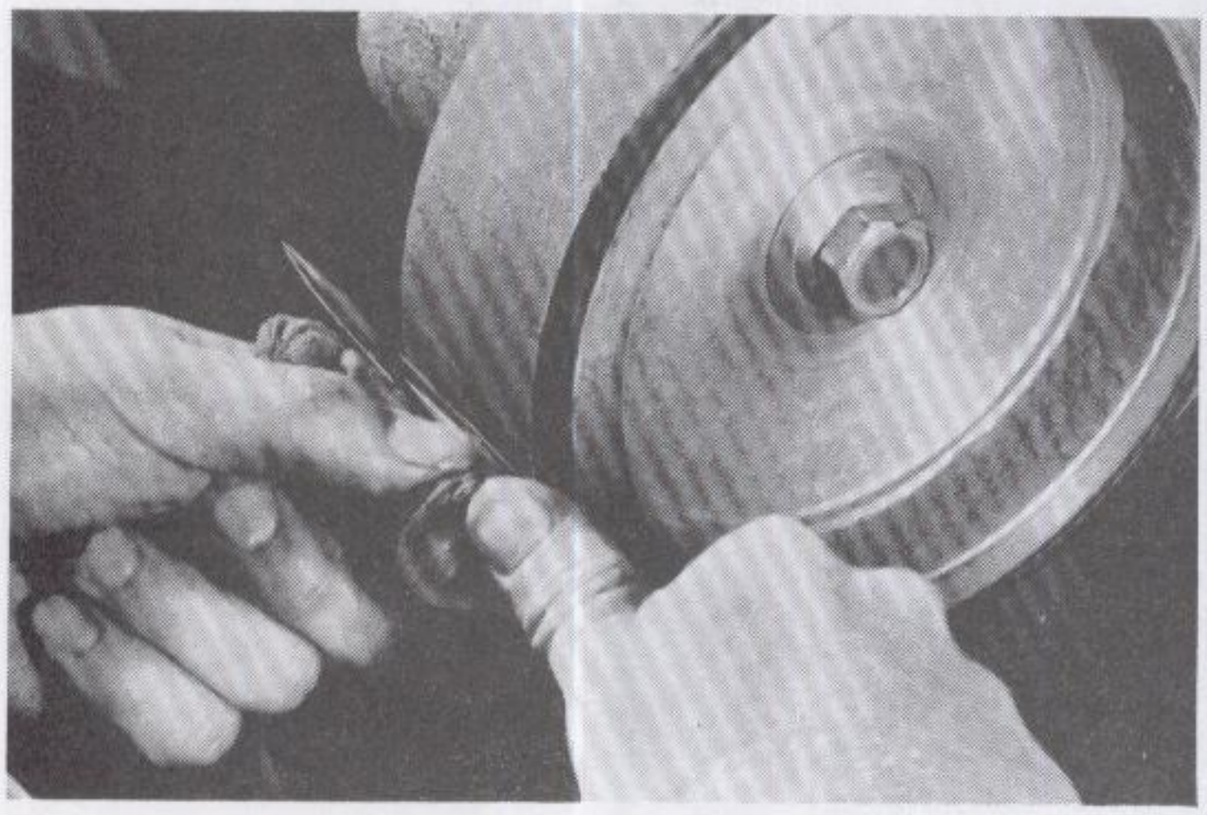


The butt and closed latch are polished smooth.

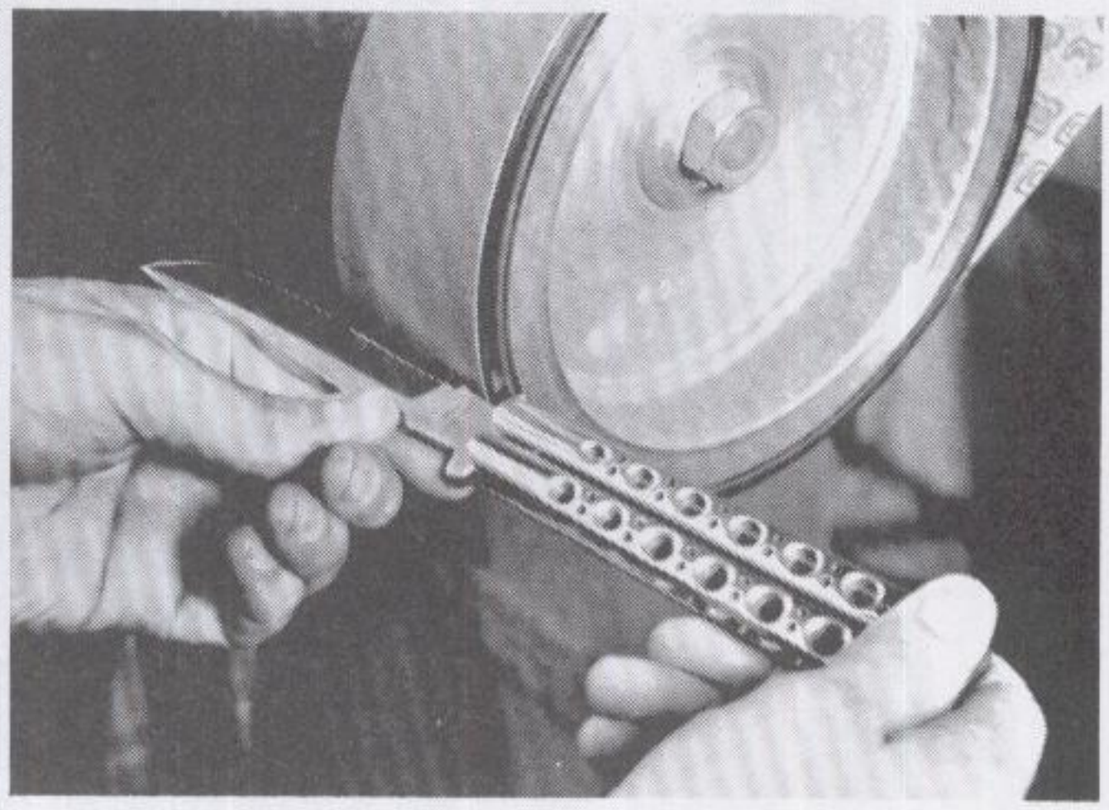
The outside surfaces of the handles are cleaned.



The butt and opened latch are polished.

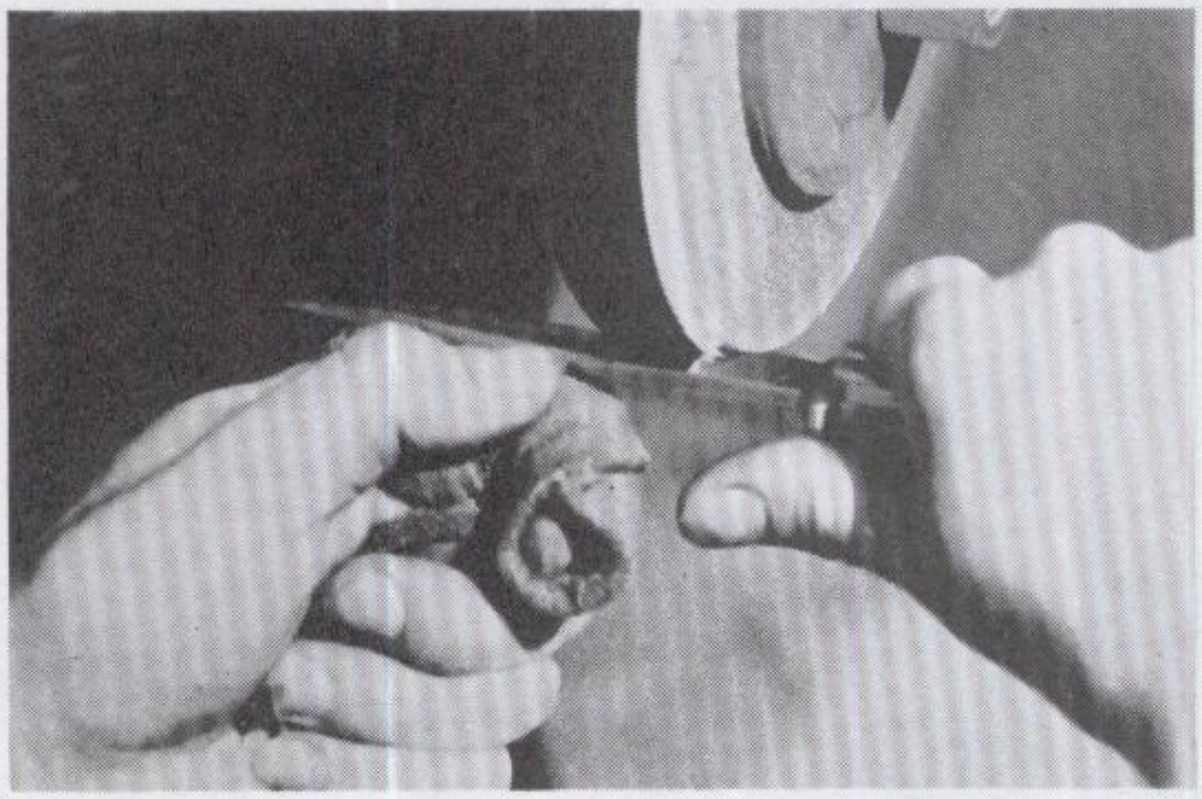


The blade is sharpened on the belt sander.

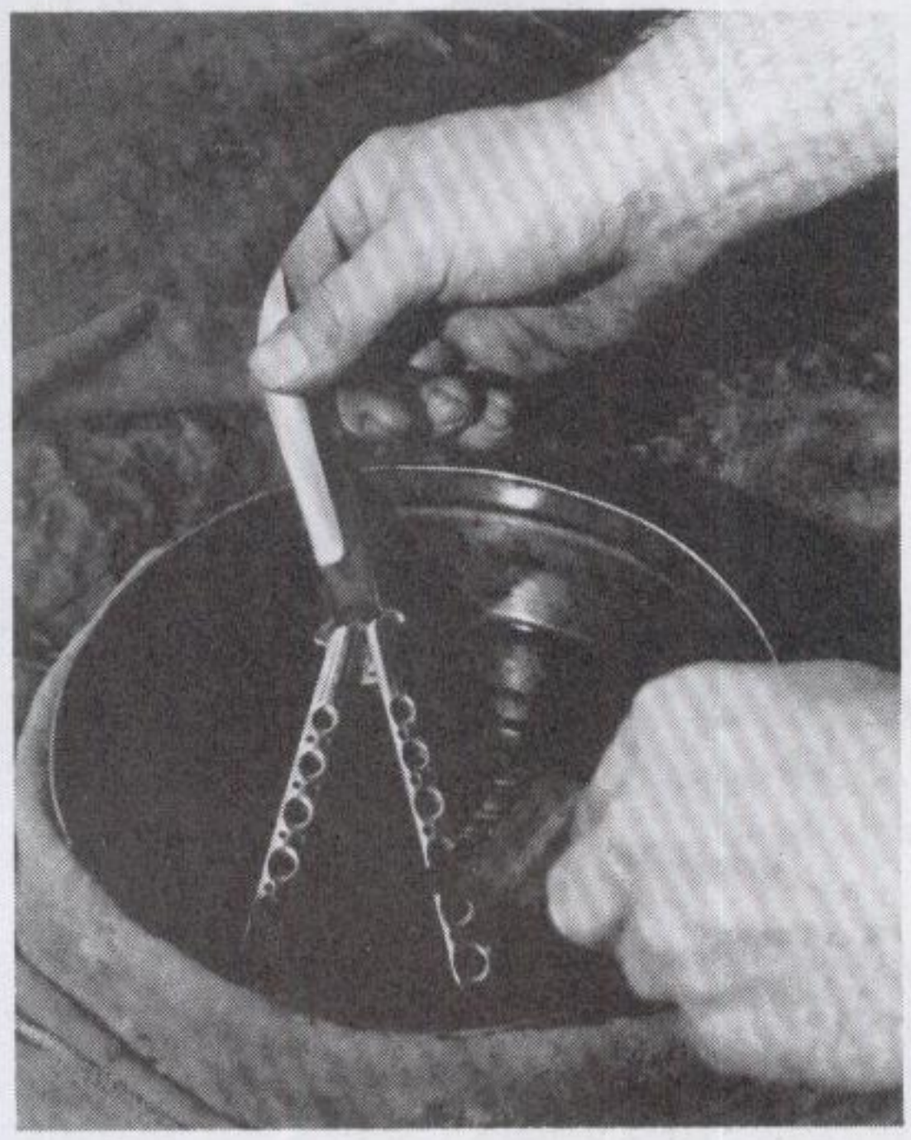


The kicker is ground down.

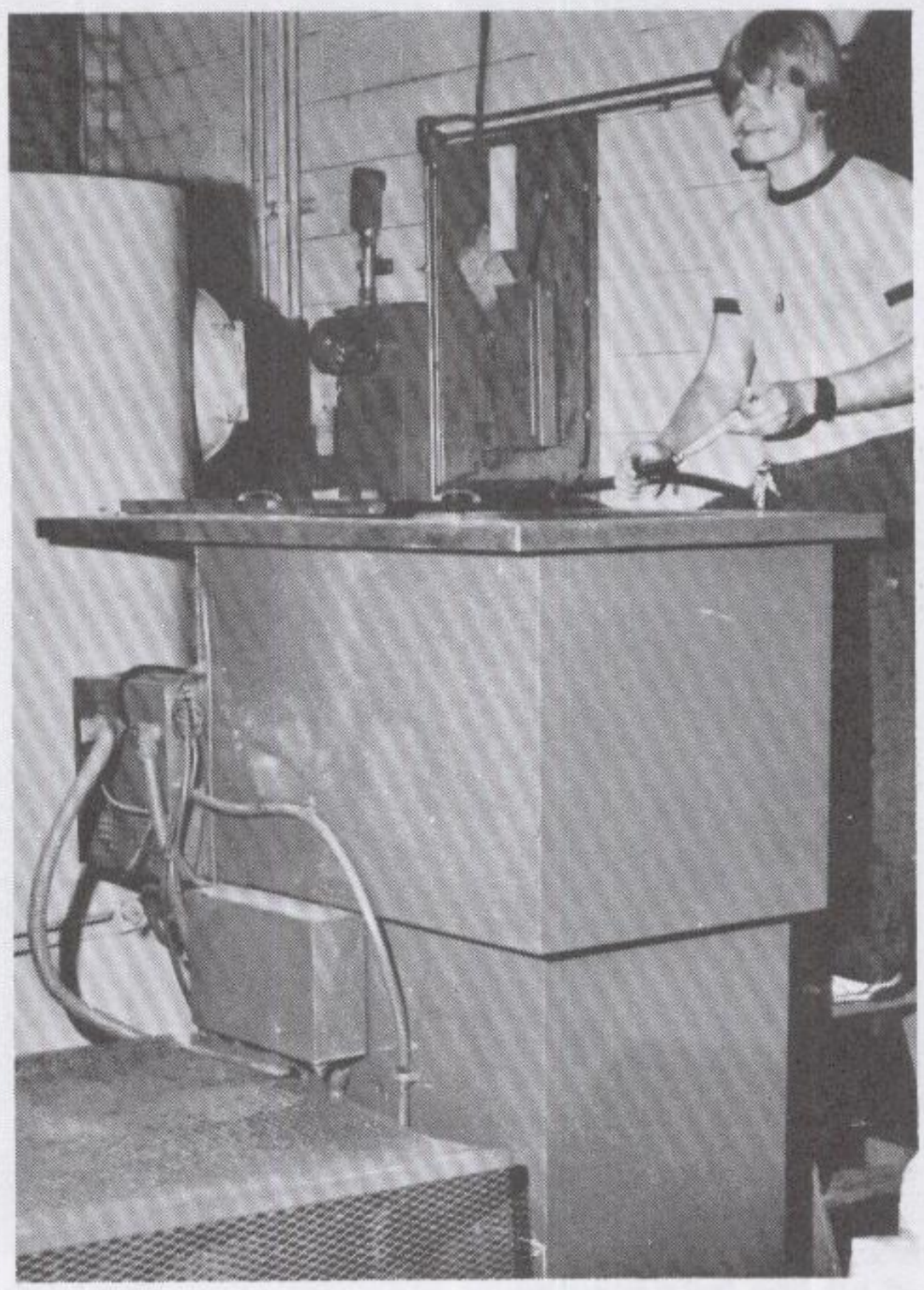
continued



A hard felt wheel is used to polish the blade.



The knife is washed in a solution of Tri-Chlor-Ethane.



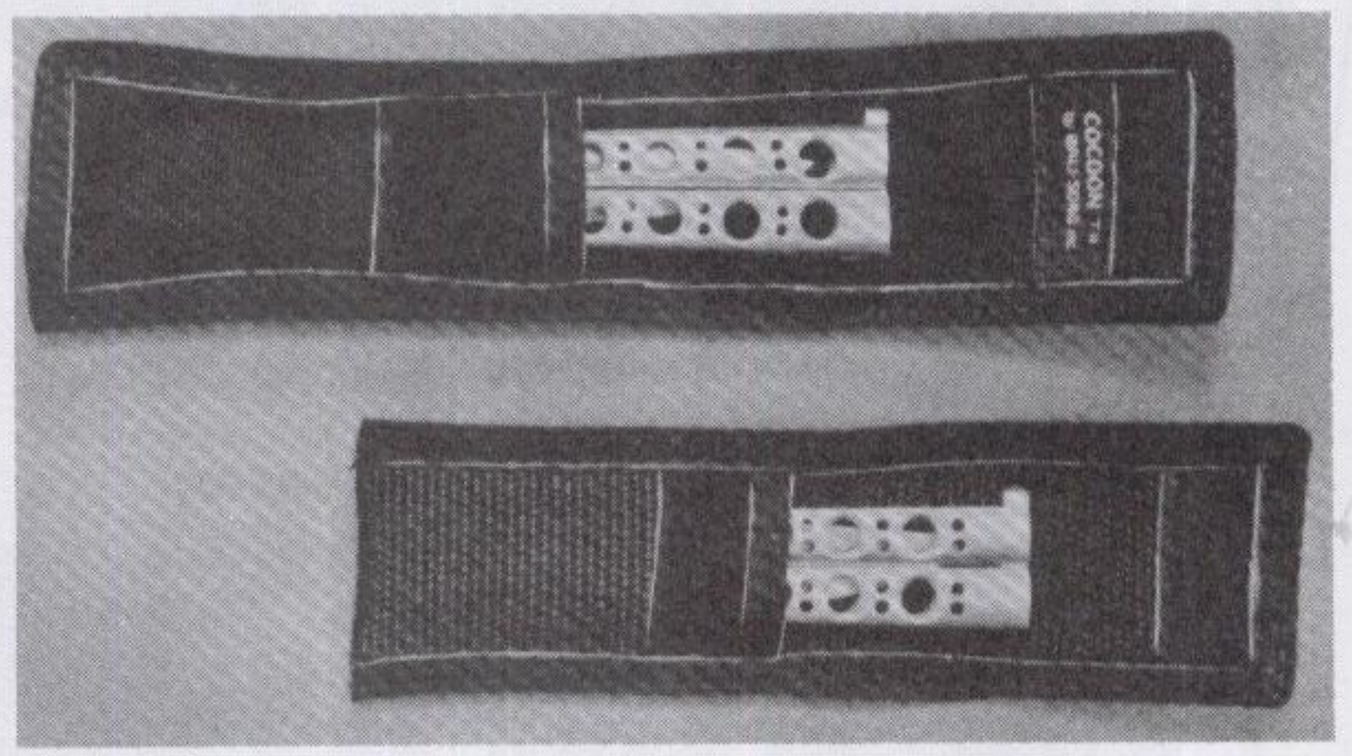
For a large volume of knives, this vapor degreaser can accommodate up to 2,700 pounds of metal.

MISC. BUTTERFLIES

The butterfly knife has finally achieved universal appeal as evidenced by its appearance in a "Doonesbury" cartoon, and by its availability in toy stores nationwide.

BELT SHEATHS

The first Cocoon™ belt sheath was designed by Marie Holman in 1981 for Pacific Cutlery. It was constructed of a heavy nylon webbing and held together by a double-stitched nylon thread. A Velcro closure kept the knife from falling out. See THE BALISONG MANUAL, Volume One, for all the carrying and drawing methods.

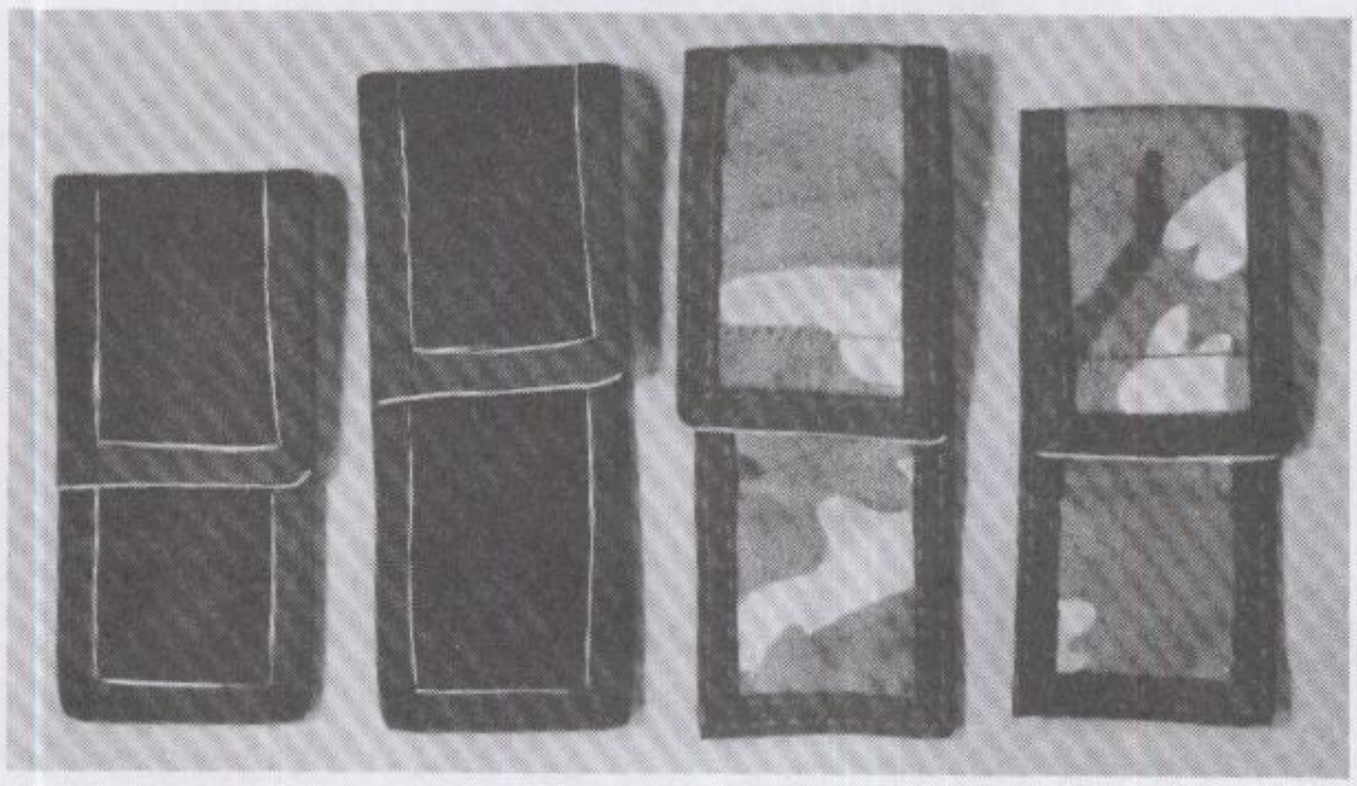


The belt sheath originally came in two models—a horizontal carry and a vertical carry. The horizontal model was attached to the belt by an industrial elastic strap, to accommodate different width belts. The vertical model used a nylon webbing loop. Current models have a universal mount that attaches horizontally or vertically on the belt.

BELT SHEATHS *continued*

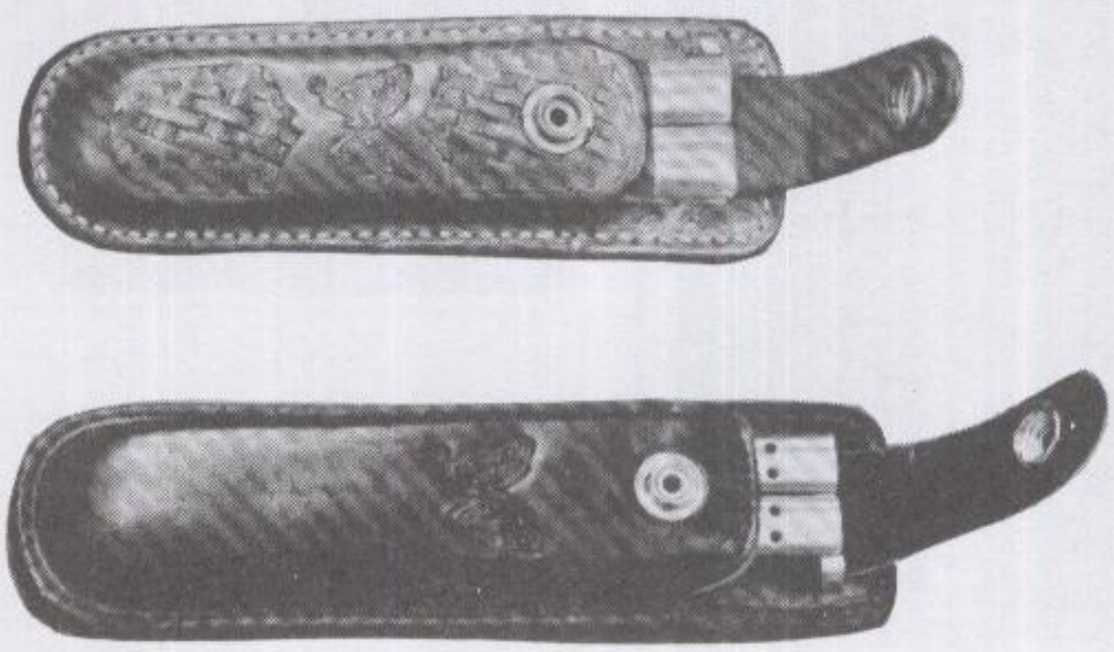
IMITATION IS THE SINCEREST FORM OF FLATTERY (without a patent)

Since the Cocoon was such a good idea, people began making them at a lower cost, offshore. The imported models were made of a thinner "pack cloth" nylon and were available in four- and five-inch sizes. Camouflage was available, but the black model sold better.



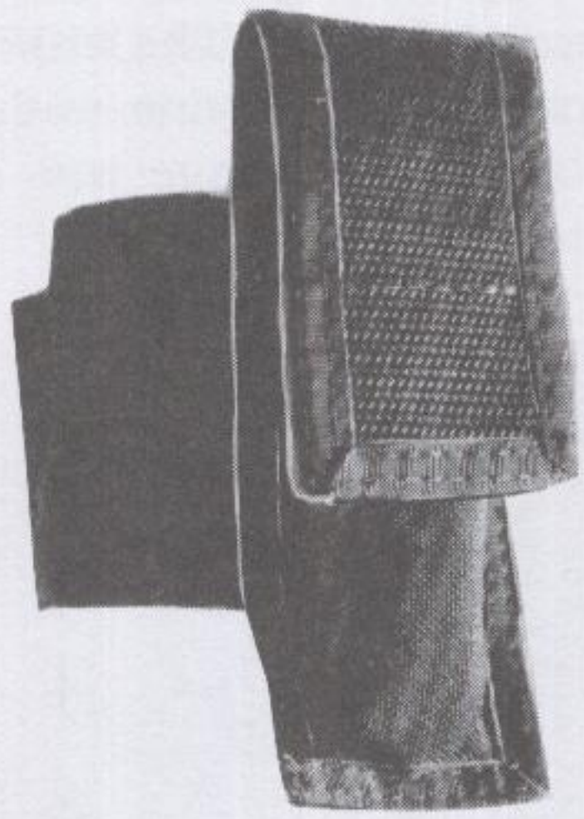
PACIFIC CUTLERY LEATHER SHEATHS

From 1980 through 1983, Pacific Cutlery sold these fine black and brown leather sheaths for about $15. They were made as a labor of love, by a local craftsman. The craftsman's untimely death marked the end of production of these now-legendary sheaths. It was impossible to duplicate the fine quality at a reasonable price, so no attempt was made to reproduce them. Today, collectors pay upwards of $50 for an original sheath.



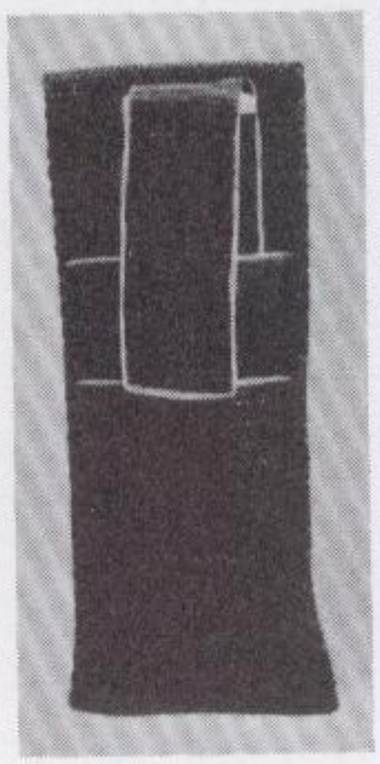
THE WRIST/ANKLE HOLSTER

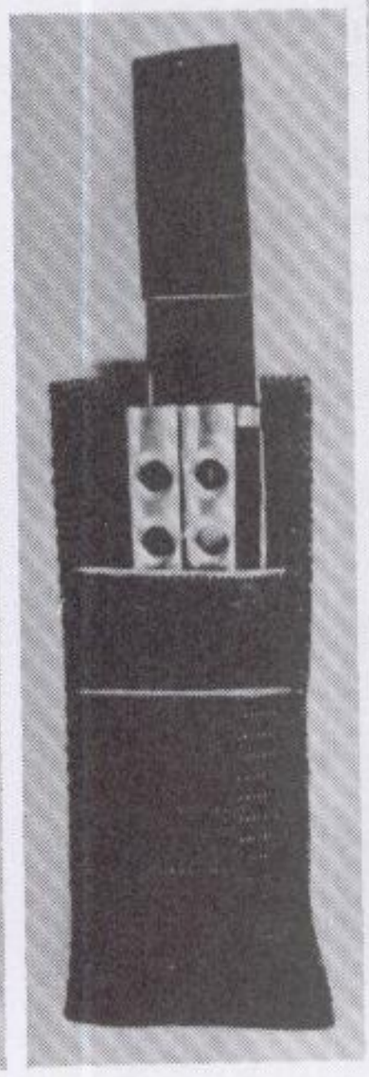
In 1983, the wrist/ankle holster was developed by Jeff Imada/Marie Holman for Know Now Publishing Company, for use in Jeff Imada's first book, THE BALISONG MANUAL. Because of the great reader response, Know Now began offering the holsters for sale in a limited, made-in-U.S.A. edition.

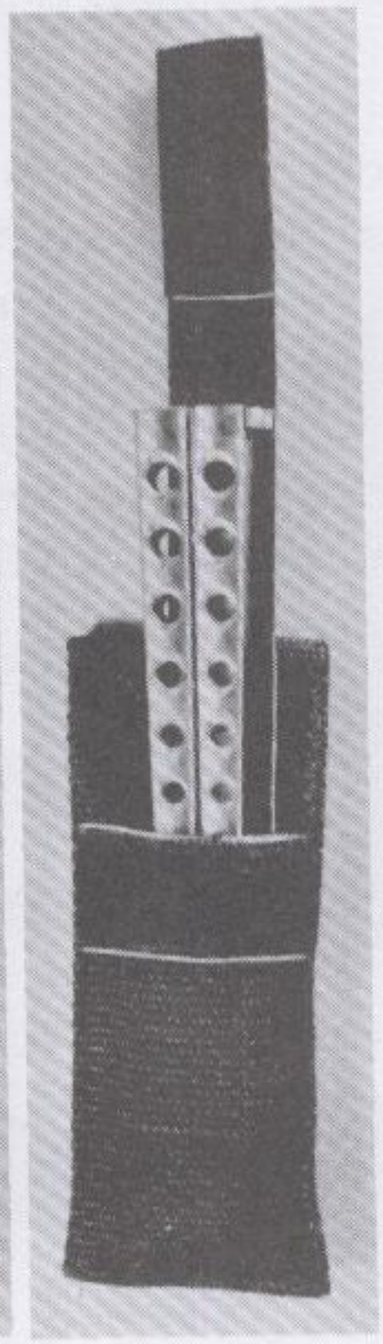


THE DELIVERANCE SHEATH

Professional Cutlery Services created this unique knife sheath. Called Deliverance, it's supposed to deliver or hand you your knife with a pull of a tab.



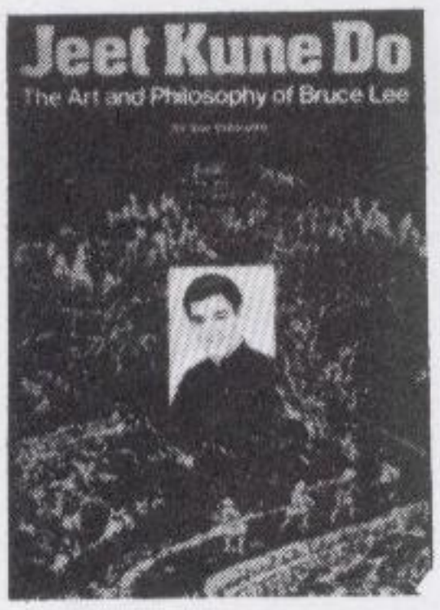




BALISONG OWNERSHIP RECORD

Date Purchased	Description	Cost	Remarks

Know Now, publishers of:



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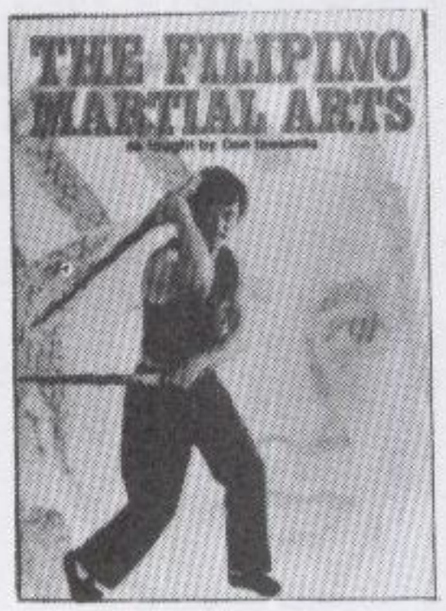

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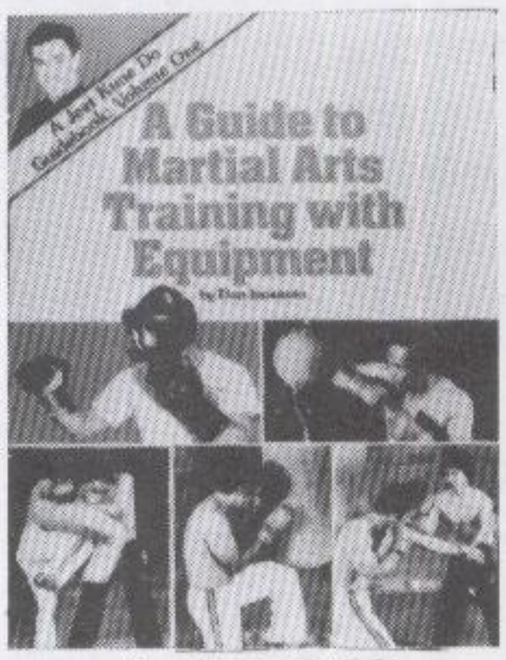

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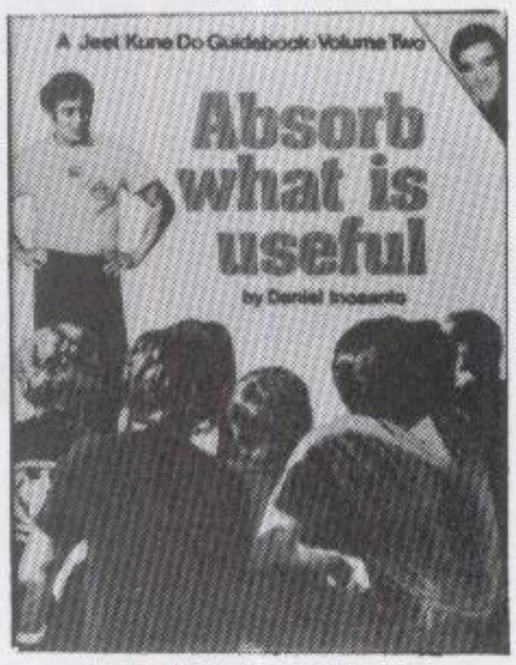

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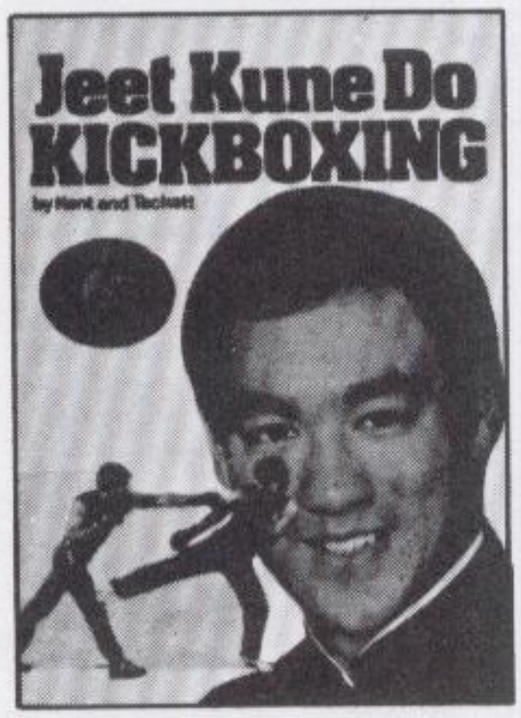

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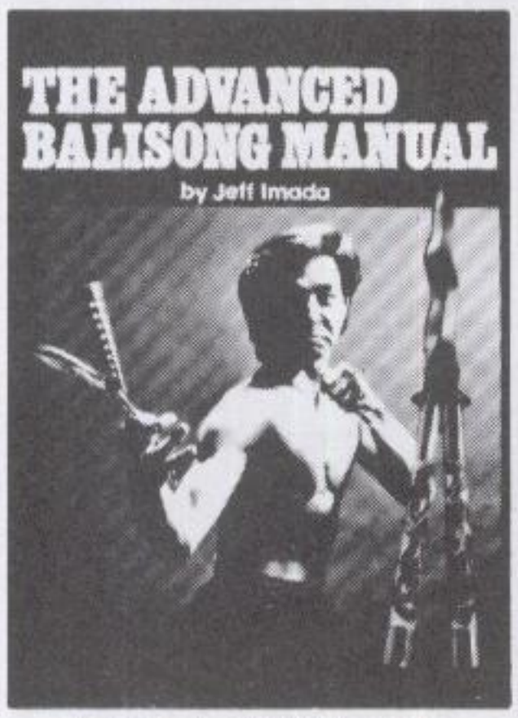

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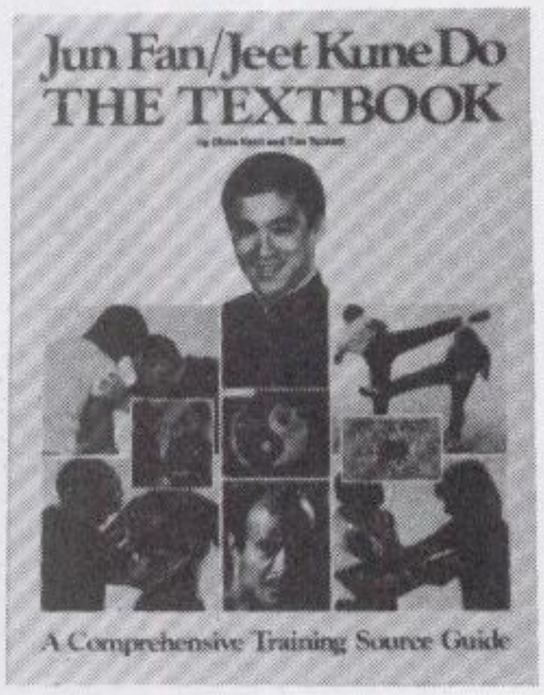

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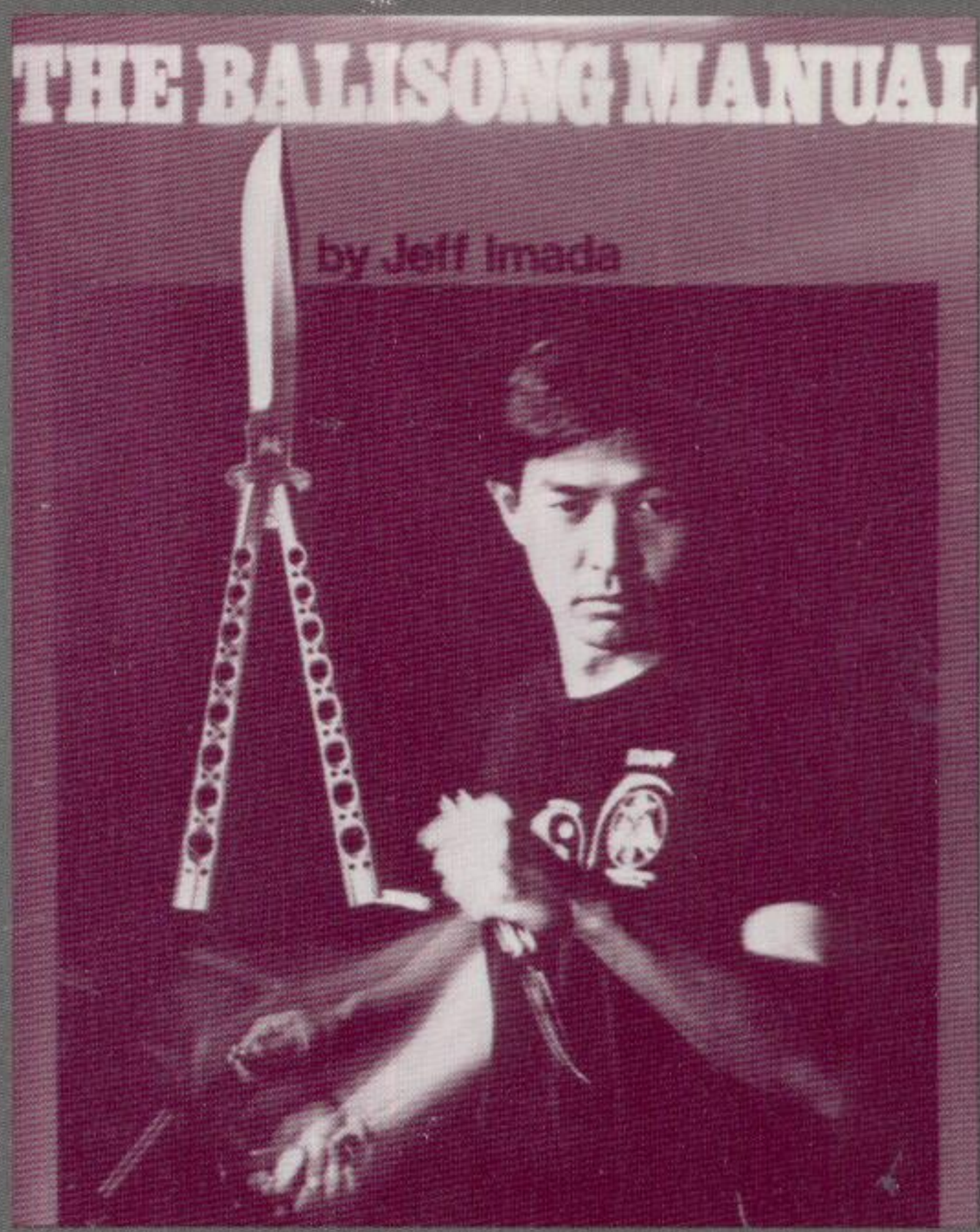

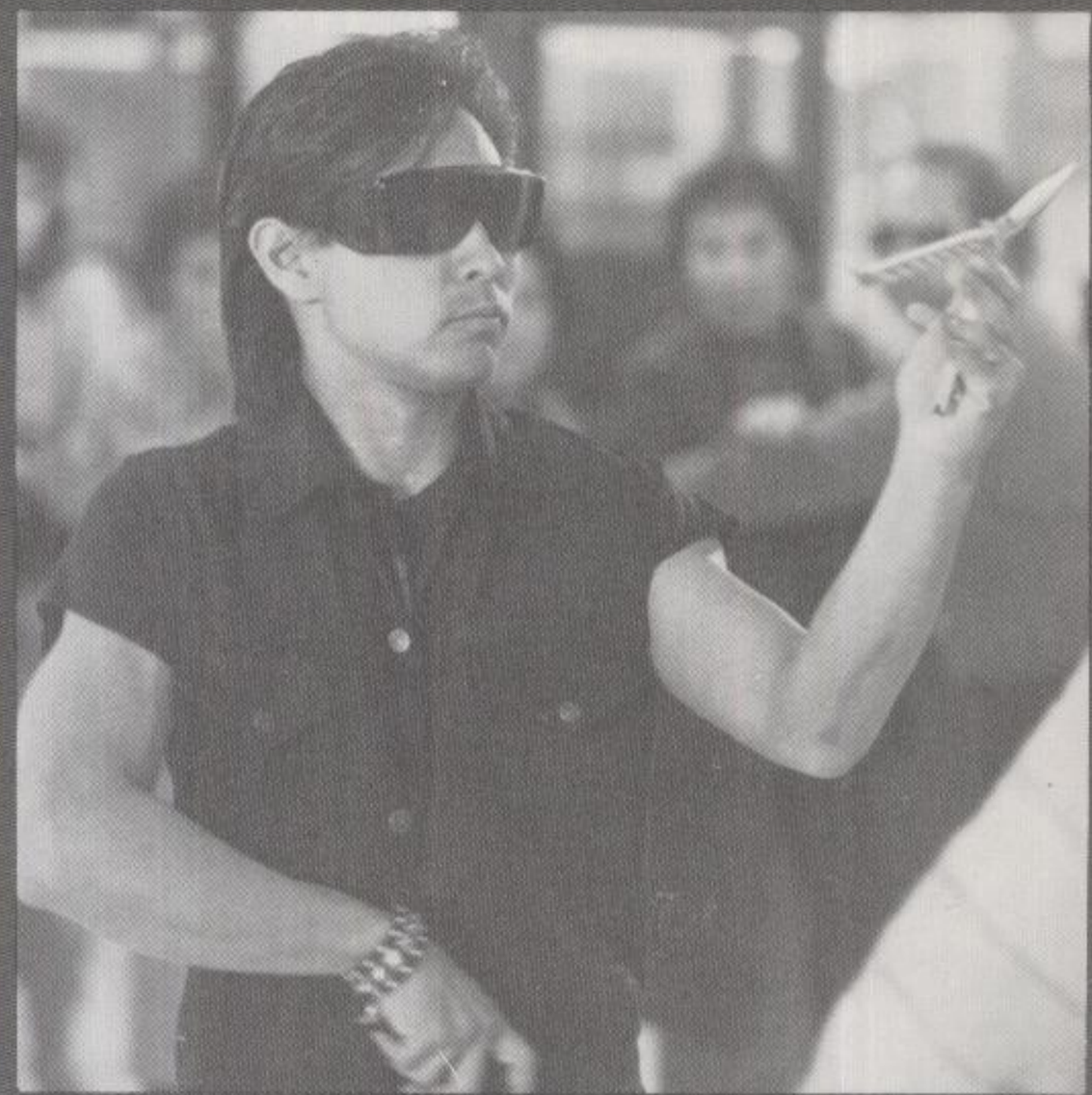

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